



THE INDEPENDENT

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THE BEST SPORT SECTION

12 PAGES FULL OF THE WEEKEND'S ACTION

PLUS IN THE REVIEW BILL BRYSON, DEBORAH ROSS, DONALD MACINTYRE, SHIRAZ Durrani



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Judge lifts Lawrence injunction

THE GOVERNMENT was forced into an embarrassing climb-down last night after a High Court judge overturned a ban by the Home Secretary, Jack Straw, on publication of details of the long-awaited report into the murder of Stephen Lawrence.

The report concluded that there was a "pernicious and institutionalised racism" among the Metropolitan Police and implied that the force's Commissioner, Sir Paul Condon, faces the sack unless he accepts its findings.

Mr Justice Rix last night ruled that extracts of the report which had appeared in early editions of the *Sunday Telegraph* could be re-published and commented upon by other newspapers and broadcasters.

The ruling meant a partial lifting of an injunction obtained less than 24 hours earlier on Mr Straw's instructions, banning any publication of material from the report ahead of its official release on Wednesday.

According to the leaks, the report of Sir William Macpherson of Cluny, who carried out the inquiry, concluded that "institutionalised racism" in the Metropolitan Police had been a key factor in its failure to catch the black teenager's killers.

They also confirm a report in *The Independent* last week that Sir Paul would be criticised for failing to realise there were serious problems with the investigation and for a "somewhat less positive approach" than other police chiefs who have accepted racism is ingrained in the service.

The Macpherson report will include 70 recommendations affecting policing and race re-

BY PAUL WAUGH
Political Correspondent

lations in Britain. A coalition of national newspapers, led by the paper's publishers - the Telegraph Group - and *The Independent*, agreed a variation to the injunction with Treasury solicitors which allows reporting of matters already in the public domain.

Tories seized upon the lifting of the ban on publication of leaked extracts from the inquiry report as a "humiliating defeat".

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■ Heavy-handed, pointless, wrong

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for the Government. Sir Norman Fowler, the shadow home secretary, said the Government should never have sought the High Court injunction in the first place.

"The Government has been forced to climb down. I think it is a humiliating defeat," he said. "The Government should never have taken this to a judge and sought an injunction in the way that they did."

"They acted in an arbitrary and a high-handed manner and they came a cropper and they deserved to have done so."

A Scotland Yard spokesman said last night: "The Commissioner has never said that his future is in Jack Straw's hands; that is not a quote from the

Commissioner. "His position is our official position - which is that neither he nor the Metropolitan Police have seen the report and we feel it is inappropriate to comment until it is laid before Parliament."

Chief Superintendent Des Parkinson, national secretary of the Police Superintendents' Association for England and Wales, welcomed the lifting of the injunction but said he was "sad" that the report had been leaked.

Referring to the criticisms of Metropolitan Police Commissioner Sir Paul Condon in the report, Mr Parkinson said: "We are not happy about the criticisms of Sir Paul. We had a meeting and there was unanimous support of Sir Paul, saying he should stay when this report came out."

"We don't believe that there is institutionalised racism in the Metropolitan Police force or in the police service in general."

However, the Home Office played down the ruling and insisted Mr Straw remained unchanged by it. "It is his firm belief that the partial leaking of the report was unfair to the Lawrences, the police and to Parliament," the Home Office said in a statement.

"The principle is upheld by the maintenance of the injunction against publication of any further material from the report."

"Today's variation of the injunction represents no more than a recognition of the practicalities of the situation, namely that some of the report's contents are now in the public domain. But clearly the principle that the report should not have been disclosed remains intact."



A model aims to make a big impression at Red or Dead's show for London Fashion Week yesterday

US fails to win right to bomb Kosovo

BY RUPERT CORNWELL

IN A fresh setback to efforts to corner Slobodan Milosevic, the US failed yesterday to win the agreement of the ethnic Albanians to the proposed political settlement that could have opened the way to Nato bombing of Yugoslav military targets.

On Saturday, after "overtime" negotiations at the conference, Madeleine Albright, US Secretary of State, could not disguise her anger at the Albanians' refusal to sign up - and thus present Belgrade with the choice of accepting the entire package, including Nato peace-keepers, or facing airstrikes.

Yesterday she tried again, without success. "We have not achieved that," her spokesman, James Rubin, said before Mrs Albright moved on to separate talks with the Serbian President, Milan Milutinovic, right-hand man of Mr Milosevic.

The impasse makes it even more likely the conference, extended to a new deadline of 1400 GMT tomorrow, will yield at best a fudged compromise.

Simultaneously, the prospect is receding of the attacks Washington is itching to unleash against Belgrade, but which are opposed not only by Russia, but most of the European members of the six-nation Contact Group of leading powers.

While cruise missiles and 430 Nato planes stand poised to strike Yugoslavia, more deaths were reported in the province at the weekend, while inhabitants of Studencane village, where Serbian security forces and Kosovo Liberation Army guerrillas exchanged heavy fire on Saturday, said they were too scared to return home.

The ethnic Albanians are refusing to sign the final draft because, although it grants Kosovo broad autonomy, it makes no provision for a referendum on independence once the three-year interim agreement expires. If the Albanians stick to this position, Mrs Albright acknowledged, there could be no bombing of Yugoslavia, though Belgrade is adamant it will tolerate no Nato peace-keepers on its soil.

Every sign is the US miscalculated, assuming the Albanians would accept any deal as long as they had a guarantee of Nato protection. In fact, as an Italian official admitted, "both sides are equally to blame".

Chateau haunted by Milosevic, page 3

Spending ban on euro poll

TONY BLAIR'S drive towards a single European currency has been hampered by Treasury guidelines which bar the Government from spending public money to campaign for a "yes" vote in the single currency referendum.

According to advice from the Treasury Officer of Accounts, the Government can use taxpayers' money only on

BY DIANE COYLE
AND PAUL WAUGH

"any expenditure which is considered necessary so that the general public can make an informed decision when they vote in the referendum."

The national changeover plan is due to be published this week as part of the Government's "prepare and decide"

policy. The Treasury advice is the first concrete confirmation that a "yes" campaign, likely to cost millions of pounds, will have to be privately funded.

While the eurosceptics have some big backers, including the millionaire businessman Paul Sykes, the pro-European groups have not done as much preparatory work on their campaign.

The Labour peer and media magnate, Lord Hollick, may be prepared to meet a large chunk of any yes campaign costs, along with other businessmen in a cross-party pro-euro alliance he formed last year.

Outside experts estimate that the total amount of expenditure needed to convert the public sector over to the euro could be around £1bn.

Share losers win £20

MORE THAN 90,000 investors who subscribed for shares in William Hill, the betting shops chain, are to receive a £20 betting voucher for the Grand National after the company's stockmarket flotation was scrapped on Saturday.

The 1,500-strong betting chain, bought by the Japanese bank Nomura two years ago, was due to hit the stockmarket

BY JOHN WILLCOCK

this month. However, last week many of the City's big institutional investors said that they thought the asking price of 135p a share was too high.

On Saturday, Nomura decided to sell William Hill instead to two financial companies, Cliven and CVC, for £825m. But interest from small investors was

intense. By the end of the offer period on Friday, Nomura had received applications for more than 120 million shares and banked over 90,000 cheques.

With the race cancelled, Nomura is to issue everyone who applied for shares with a voucher for a "double" bet on the Lincoln Handicap and the National. Nomura placates investors. Business, page 15

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Lonely talks at a French chateau haunted by the spectre of Milosevic

BY RUPERT CORNWELL

DAYTON WAS one thing. An air force base in the American Midwest about the size of a small English county, and F-15s, F-16s, not to mention a one-man diplomatic tank regiment named Richard Holbrooke to make the point so clearly that it could have been etched in neon on the broad Ohio sky: "Work out your problems, guys, or else..." The methods weren't pretty and the guest quarters where Messrs Slobodan Milosevic, Franjo Tudjman and Alija Izetbegovic were holed up for a month had less charm than a Day's Inn. But it worked. Peace, albeit uneasy and massively policed, came to Bosnia.

Fast forward three years to unending bloodshed in Kosovo, and another Balkan peace conference near Paris. After the unobtrusive flexing of American military muscle, this was *l'heure de l'Europe*. If Dayton was a warning, Rambouillet was a promise. "Look around you and just imagine," the setting of this Balkan conference tells Serbs and Kosovo Albanians over the last two weeks: "Be reasonable, settle your differences and you too could have a share of this. You too could join rich, civilised and refined Europe."

And most tempting it has been. A gorgeous palace where French kings once sported and where Napoleon spent his final nights before being shipped to St Helena, buried in the French countryside. A small French town whose high street (here named, inevitably, Rue Charles de Gaulle) boasts cosy restaurants where you eat like a king for £10 a head, not to mention a cheese shop to pale anything in Jermyn Street SW1. And thus it was inside the chateau: gilt and crystal chandeliers, and a magnificent paneled dining room where the Elysée caterer Lenotre laid out its offerings in a sumptuous daily buffet. For people brought up on grittier Balkan fare, this must have been paradise indeed.

La bonne table, (though cheeseburgers did appear on the second Monday), a wide selection of vintages of most of them *grands*, and fine and aromatic cognacs: *le doux pays de France* in her full seductive splendour. And by all accounts, the mortal enemies took to it like ducks to water. "Don't weigh the results when it's all over, just weigh the delegates," was one shrewd diplomat's quip. But did it work? No, or rather not yet - for even in the politics of a rush of good sense in the next 48 hours cannot quite be ruled out.

This has been a peace conference like few others. For one thing, the two sides show no real sign of even wanting to make peace. Barring a couple of occasions, at the opening ceremony and when Madeleine Albright was in town 10 days ago, the Serbs and Albanians haven't even negotiated face-to-face. Instead they have remained on separate floors, with



Albanian advisers deep in discussion at Château de Rambouillet near Paris, where the US is putting heavy pressure on the Serbs to make a peace deal over Kosovo or face Nato action

AP

American, European and Russian mediators ferrying proposals and counterproposals between them. Above them, on the third floor, the six countries of the Contact Group each had their own office, monitoring proceedings. Sometimes, queuing for the buffet, Serb and Albanian might find themselves side by side. But as soon as they had heaped their plates, they retreated to different tables, divided by a chasm of hostility and suspicion.

And the segregation was as well. One day Hashim Thaqi, of the Kosovo Liberation Army and a leading negotiator for the ethnic Albanians, emerged from the chateau to hold a press conference in a cramped bar's even more cramped rear section (the French having with impeccable Gallic logic laid on a conference whose importance they proclaimed daily to the world, but failing to provide even a single extra telephone line or workspace for the reporters sent to cover it). One of his Serb opposite numbers, Thaqi said, "threatened to kill me" if the Albanians didn't accept the deal on offer. Had they talked directly across a table, the room might have been knee

deep in corpses after half an hour.

So much, though, for the notion of peace talks cut off from the outside. It is true that apart from odd forays like Mr Thaqi's the participants mostly stayed behind the barred gates of the chateau estate, its perimeter guarded by cohorts of CRS riot police. But the mobile phones kept buzzing and beeping, fuelling a spin war fought out in the Serb and Albanian press at

home. Dayton, where the US military was seriously into the business of holding hostages, was a Trappist monastery in comparison.

One way and another, this has been a model of how not to run a diplomatic conference. The beauty of Dayton was that everyone was there. Now it would be unkind to describe the Serbian delegates here as monks. But perhaps because he feared arrest for war crimes,

perhaps because he considered it beneath his dignity, the organ grinder has this time stayed in Belgrade, haughtily refusing to see Christopher Hill, the chief mediator who flew to see him on Friday.

Rambouillet has danced to the tune of Slobodan Milosevic. Might he make an appearance in person? Would Robin Cook or Hubert Vedrine go to Belgrade to see him? By Saturday evening however, when the

Contact Group foreign ministers trooped out to meet the press, they were in no state to go anywhere. Our untiring Foreign Secretary had been up the previous day until 5am, and had spent the rest of the night on a camp bed. As for Madeleine Albright, furious that the Albanians had said no to the deal and thus denied Washington the opportunity to unleash the Cruise missiles, she looked shattered, her features pasty

and wan as the whitewashed face of a Japanese kabuki actress. Failure, or its almost certain prospect, was etched on every face. This was to have been Europe's hour, but the best that Europe can salvage from the muddle is a fudge. One deadline set in stone has passed. Why on earth, we wondered, should Mr Milosevic, unrivalled in spinning out the miseries he has visited on his own people to prolong his political survival, believe that the next one at 9pm tomorrow should be any different?

Fifty too, the hapless citizens of Rambouillet. Their pleasant town has been overrun by an uncouth media army, their regular weekend markets have been cancelled, and on Saturday, supposedly the conference's final day, the place was sealed off by roadblocks. The local paper spoke ominously of 50,000 Serbs or Albanians massing to demonstrate. In the event, if a single protester turned up, we didn't see him.

And finally, pity us, the hacks. A sure sign of thin pickings, the TV crews were quickly reduced to filming each other. Every kind of rumour flourished, from changes in arcane dispositions of the new civil ju-

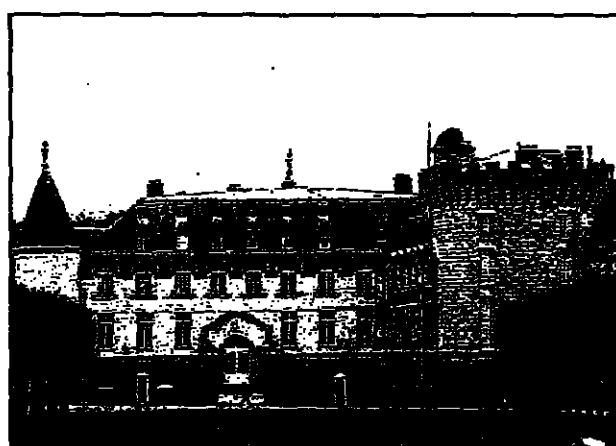
dicial system for Kosovo, to the suggestion that Richard Holbrooke himself would descend upon the chateau, a *deus ex machina* to beat Serbs, Albanians and everyone else into submission by the sheer force of his ego. In the end no one walked out. But by Saturday night, no one could tell us either who had agreed to precisely what. And even if a political deal was as close as Robin Cook implied, everyone knew it depended on whether the malign puppeteer in Belgrade would accept Nato troops on Yugoslav soil.

If he doesn't, the Americans assure, the bombs will fall. But probably Mr Milosevic actually wants a few to fall, so he can blame Nato and not his misjudgements for the loss of Kosovo, which in his heart he knows that sooner or later is inevitable. Those were some of our thoughts as we waited through the endless hours of Saturday afternoon for the Ministers to come. And where were we waiting? Not in the chateau or some fine assembly hall, but in the gym of the local army barracks. Finally Rambouillet is learning something from Dayton. The tragedy is, it may be too late.

THE KEY PLAYERS, PRESENT AND ABSENT



Milosevic (left) never tied up at Rambouillet's famous chateau but he played his cards so skillfully from a distance that he appears to have stayed the hand of Madeleine Albright (right) into an admission of near-defeat



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Police to use Capone ploy on gangland

POLICE ARE seeking access to the tax files of suspected drugs barons and big criminals in secret negotiations with the Inland Revenue.

The move, which mirrors the tactics used to smash the empire of 1920s Chicago mobster Al Capone, would for the first time allow police to study the tax affairs of private individuals.

The tactic has civil liberties implications but would provide police with a crucial tool in their attempts to bring down the top-tier criminals who are able to distance themselves from their illegal activities.

Senior officials at the Inland Revenue have been holding talks with the Association of Chief Police Officers and the National Criminal Intelligence Service aimed at developing a system which would not be open to abuse.

A senior NCIS source said: "The Revenue are all for it. At the moment we have the ability to pass information to them but they can't pass information to us. We want to get to the stage where, in serious organised crime investigations, there is a cross-flow of intelligence." The talks are likely to lead to

BY IAN BURRELL
Home Affairs Correspondent

the agreement next month of a memorandum of understanding between the Revenue, police and the NCIS. The document is likely to go before the Treasury Minister, Barbara Roche, who is considering legislation to permit such information sharing.

Treasury officials are understood to be looking at the possibility of including the proposal as an amendment to the Finance Act. The arrangement would be partly modelled on the Criminal Assets Bureau in Ireland, where tax officers and police share information.

It is understood that the NCIS would seek to act as a clearing house for all requests for tax information made by individual police forces. If the request satisfied the necessary criteria, it would be passed on to the Revenue.

Last night John Wadham, of the human rights group Liberty, said police access to tax files should not be given "where the police simply want to ferret around in people's files" and called for a system which was

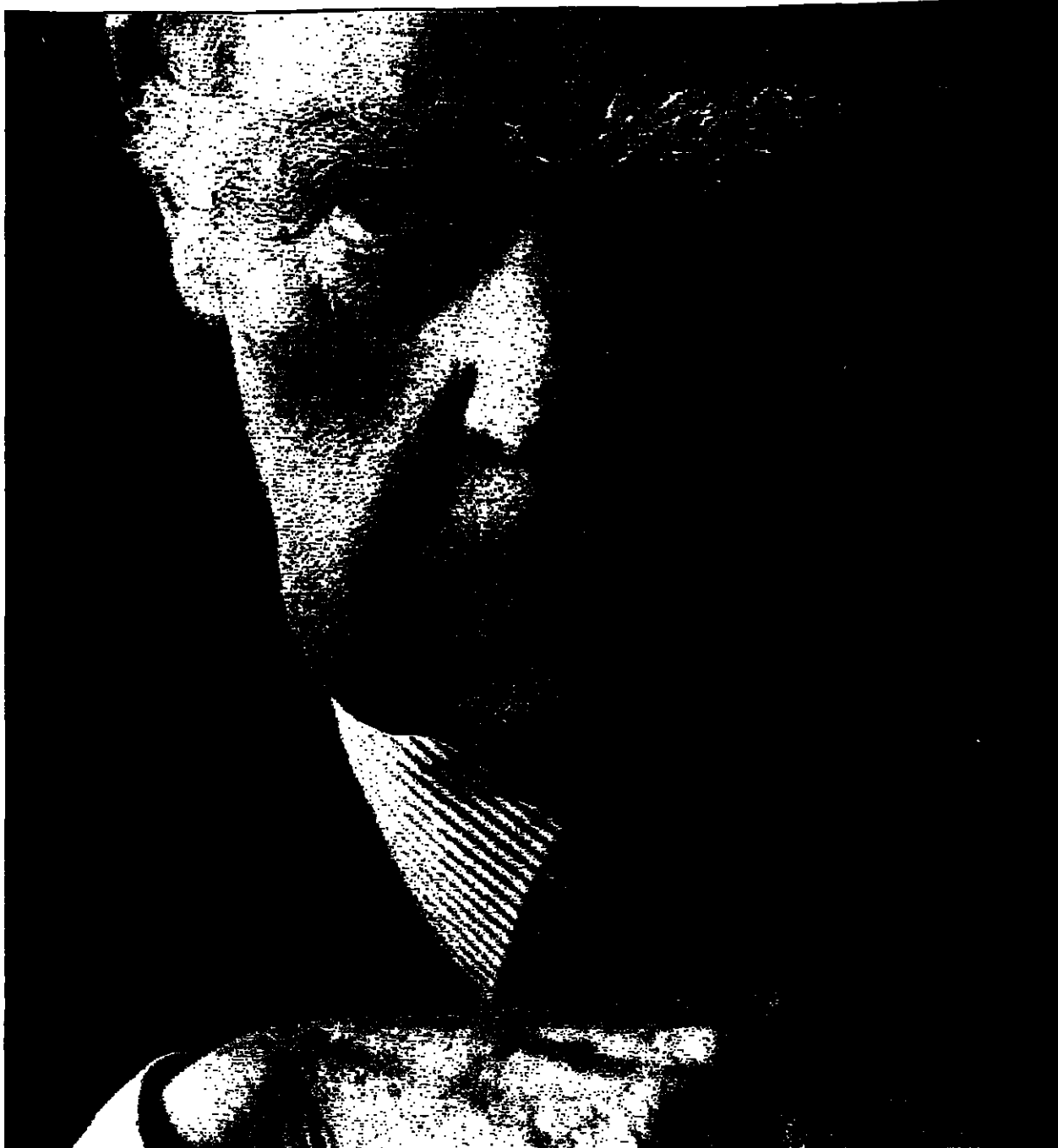
regulated by the courts.

He said: "There may be circumstances where the police have a justifiable reason to have access to Inland Revenue files but there should be an independent check to see that this is not abused. The obvious solution is for that independent check to be a judge."

Police chiefs hope that tax inspectors will be drafted in to work at a new confiscation agency being considered by the Home Office as a way of targeting criminals' assets.

Simon Goddard, of the strategic and specialist intelligence branch at NCIS, said police are failing to confiscate the money and assets of the top level drug traffickers. "We are not getting the right people. We are not getting the Mr Bigs behind it all," he said. "Between 1987 and 1996 only 157 drug trafficking confiscation orders for £100,000 or more were made against a background of over 45,000 convictions for supply of drugs."

Law enforcement agencies are also concerned that new opportunities for drug traffickers and criminals to launder their money are being created by the introduction of the euro.



Sir Bernard Ingham will appear at Croydon Magistrates Court tomorrow

David Sanderson

Ingham charged with damage

BY NICHOLAS SCHOON

SIR BERNARD Ingham, Margaret Thatcher's press secretary during most of her tenure of Downing Street, was yesterday charged with criminal damage.

Scotland Yard said Sir Bernard, 66, would appear at Croydon Magistrates Court tomorrow.

He was charged at Croydon police station with causing criminal damage to a silver Mercedes car in December last year.

The alleged offence took place on a Sunday afternoon at the rear of a building in the road in Purley, south London, where Sir Bernard lives, said a Metropolitan Police spokesman. Sir Bernard is accused of causing damage worth less than £2,000 to the saloon car. He is on police bail.

Last night he said: "I shall say what I have to say in court. I don't think it will be a substantive hearing on Tuesday."

Asked how he was going to plead, Sir Bernard said: "I am not saying what I shall do. I personally have never seen any damage. I have had trouble for 10 years, and I think the full facts will come out in court."

Relations between Sir Bernard and a neighbour, builder Barry Cripps, became unfriendly soon after the latter moved into "Nutcracker Gables" a decade ago.

Whelan memoirs in 'bidding war frenzy'

CHARLIE WHELAN, formerly one of the Government's most high-profile spin-doctors, appears to be pulling off his most lucrative piece of work to date. The Chancellor's former press secretary is penning his memoirs, entitled *I Spun It My Way*, amid helpful rumours of a bidding war between publishers.

Mr Whelan, who quit his post at the Treasury after he was named and blamed as the source of a report of a secret £373,000 loan from Geoffrey Robinson to Peter Mandelson, the former trade secretary, is

BY CLARE GARNER

reportedly set to make £500,000 from the book.

Curtis Brown, his literary agent, says he has been "showered with offers" of up to £250,000. Newspapers are said to be prepared to pay £200,000 for serialisation.

Mr Whelan, 44, a fanatical Tottenham Hotspur supporter, yesterday refused to confirm the amounts being offered: "If those figures are true I'll be able to buy Spurs a new player and pay off Peter Mandelson's house loan for him."

Mr Whelan is now a chat-show host on BBC Radio Five Live.

He would not comment on the contents of his book, but his review of the journalist Paul Routledge's unauthorised biography of Mr Mandelson, entitled *Mandy*, hinted it would be explosive: "Mandy goes a fair amount of the way to revealing the inner machinations of the rise of New Labour," he wrote. "Of course, there are probably lots more details that neither Paul Routledge, nor anybody else has told - yet."

IN BRIEF

Seven held over Omagh bombing

SEVEN PEOPLE were last night being questioned about the Omagh bombing after arrests by British and Irish police on both sides of the Irish border. Detectives believe the Real IRA bomb was assembled in Northern Ireland but transported to Omagh in a car stolen in the Irish Republic.

Assault on girls, 8 and 12

DETECTIVES WERE last night looking for two boys aged seven and 12 and a youth of 15 after two girls were assaulted. The girls, eight and 12, were attacked by the two older boys at ponds in Doncaster, South Yorkshire. The boys were with a boy of four and rode off on bikes.

Hillsborough survivors' fight

SURVIVORS OF Hillsborough dissatisfied with the legal advice they received after the stadium disaster in April 1989 in which 96 people died met in Liverpool yesterday to plan new legal action to try to win compensation from solicitors who represented them in claims against the police.

League tables for social services

LEAGUE TABLES for local authority social services departments are to be announced next week. Ministers hope the tables will lead to higher standards and make departments more accountable for their £9bn budgets.

Eleven share Lottery jackpot

ELEVEN TICKET holders will share last night's £6,035,601 National Lottery jackpot. The winning numbers were 23, 17, 3, 40, 9 and 29, and the bonus 44. A total of 55 tickets scooped £33,765 each after matching five numbers.

Doctors oppose organ 'theft'

BY MELANIE HARVEY

TWO LEADING surgeons yesterday challenged the views of a British scientist who has called for bodies to be seized after death to ease shortages in organ donors.

Professor John Harris, an international authority on bioethics and one of the hosts of a two-day conference on the subject, will tell delegates that the use of organs without consent is necessary to meet demand.

He argues that the distress of relatives must be weighed against the needs of the seriously ill.

But during the conference hosted by the Institute of Medicine, Law and Ethics at the University of Manchester, his views will be challenged by Dr Khumars Bakshandeh and Professor Robert Sells.

Dr Bakshandeh, a urology and kidney surgeon in California, is calling for financial incentives such as cheaper burial and life insurance, combined with an education programme to encourage people to donate organs before and after death. Letters, Review, page 2

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Trains: Commuters get chance to tackle private firms as figures show current service worse than BR

Public to confront failing railways

AGGRIEVED COMMUTERS will at last be able to make their points in person this week as the political row over who is to blame for the state of the railways chugs on.

With the privatised railway now officially worse than British Rail the Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott has called a public meeting, dubbed a rail summit, to be held on Thursday.

The 10 passenger watchdogs, the Rail User Consultative Committees (RUCCs) have been invited to send five representatives each, including one ordinary commuter.

One of the few to have secured a place is Geoff Meekums, a retired aerospace worker from Edenbridge in Kent.

The event in central London will be dominated by speeches from Mr Prescott, Transport Ministers John Reid and Glenda Jackson, and the chairman of the new Strategic Rail Authority, who is expected to be named as ex-Eurotunnel boss Sir Alastair Morton as early as today.

But Mr Meekums will be among those passenger representatives who, according to sources, will get to make their views known through speeches and question and answer sessions.

This will be unpleasant listening for Ministers and the representatives of the rail industry because commuters do not care who is to blame for the problems or who takes credit for the successes.

They simply want a marked improvement in a railway service the Government describes as "unacceptable".

The Government is expected to use the event to announce initiatives, such as the terms on which the more successful companies can extend their

BY PHILIP THORNTON
Transport Correspondent

franchises in exchange for extra investment. GNER and Connex will be among the bidders.

The rail industry will use it to announce a package of measures to improve rail performance in the medium and long term. Last November they unveiled a 10-point plan to bring short term improvements and on Thursday will give a progress report.

It is thought that the recent performance figures, which included a new A to E grading system that awarded just one A, and the summit, have been designed to mark a low-point for the industry.

The Government has said it will be held responsible if performance has not improved by November - a target that looks more achievable when starting from such a low base.

Meanwhile, it emerged yesterday that a team of undercover inspectors are to be sent out on to the railway network to discover what the public thinks about privatised services.

The Transport Minister John Reid said the Government wanted to be the "passenger's champion" in ensuring that standards improve.

"We want to look at a range of ways of making sure that the passenger is being put first. We want a better idea of what the passengers actually think," Mr Reid said.

He added that a good way of achieving this would be to have inspectors travelling on the networks speaking to people and reporting their findings to the Strategic Rail Authority.

Those companies which were not performing, he said, had "no future in the industry".



Geoff Meekums, chairman of the Edenbridge and District Rail Travellers' Association, at Edenbridge Town Station

Mark Chilvers

Waiting to take on the rail chiefs

Geoff Meekums, 64, a recently retired commuter from Edenbridge, in Kent, is one of the few passengers who will get to have their say.

"I am chairman of the Edenbridge and District Rail Travellers' Association and I have travelled a lot by rail - I use Northern Spirit, GNER, Wales & West, South West Trains and Great Western Trains.

"The problem I have when I travel west from Edenbridge is the number of different railway

companies. Since privatisation I have to kick my heels at Redhill and Reading when I used to only have to change at Reading. There is a lack of seamless rail travel. There are many examples of cross-country journeys where if a train is late, because the train operators are all separate companies, the other operator won't hold the connecting train. I think the Strategic Rail Authority needs to look at that with dispatch and vigour.

"Meanwhile, the line from Uckfield to Oxford is one of the last two remaining pieces of diesel track in the area now run by Connex. The rolling stock is made up of 40-year-old slam-door vehicles. My concern is the future of the line.

"Connex South Central put in a bid to extend their seven-year franchise which included electrifying the line and that would have brought in new stock. It was turned down by the Franchising Director because there were insufficient

benefits. Their franchise expires in 2003 and we know that slam-door vehicles must be phased out or modified at a cost of £10,000 a vehicle by 2003 - an estimated cost of £2.5m. What is Connex's view on the slam-door stock when they have no guarantee of getting the franchise again? Connex is keen to resubmit but the question is: how do these time scales fit together? As soon as you embark on a modification programme you have to withdraw 10 per

cent of your stock at any one time with all the cancellations and chaos that goes with it.

John Prescott has said he is willing to extend some of the franchises but the question is - how long will Mr Prescott and the SRA take to deal with the issue of franchise renewal. I don't think Mr Prescott has the first idea of what he is trying to do. I believe that, like so many managers, he does not get out enough on the trains and go for a ride to learn what is going on."

Freud to paint Queen's portrait

LUCIAN FREUD, whose unforgiving portraits have earned him the reputation of the world's greatest living realist painter, has provisionally agreed to paint the Queen.

Among the 76-year-old artist's conditions is that Her Majesty travel to his west London studio for her sittings. He is also understood to have requested that the Queen endure 72 sittings, unlike her normal 5, but subsequently relaxed this term.

In the past Freud has refused to paint a number of notables, including the Pope and Diana,

BY CLARE GARNER

Princess of Wales. His provisional agreement to paint the monarch, which follows six years of delicate negotiations by her confidant, Sir Robert Fellowes, was welcomed by the Royal Society of Portrait Painters (RSPP) yesterday.

"If one of our greatest living painters actually manages to paint the Queen and paint her properly, without all this nonsense of only being allowed five one-hour sittings, then we will all raise an enormous

cheer," said Daphne Todd, president of the RSPP.

"A lot of royal portraits are sycophantic... Provided Lucian Freud is not daunted by the rigmarole of royalty, it will be a better painting than most."

The Queen, who is 72, sits for about six portraits a year; most of them destined for regimental messes. If the Freud project goes ahead it is understood she would pose in informal dress, for a head-and-shoulders portrait. Well-known for her lack of vanity, the Queen is unlikely to be offended by an unflattering result.



Freud: Would paint an informal royal portrait

Russians 'spied on City'

RUSSIAN SPIES have infiltrated City of London banks and finance houses in a campaign of economic espionage against Britain, an MI6 agent has alleged.

The unnamed agent claims a Russian security organisation, the SVR, which succeeded the KGB, has infiltrated Barclays Bank and the London gold and metals markets, according to a Sunday newspaper.

The source of the allegations is not thought to have worked as an MI6 officer, though he may have been a paid

BY FRAN ABRAMS
AND JASON BENNETT

agent. The report said he was not born in Britain, suggesting he may have strong links with Russia. Last night sources suggested the claims were unlikely to cause as much disquiet as revelations from two former full-time MI6 officers, David Shayler and Richard Tomlinson. A Foreign Office spokesman said last night that it did not comment on intelligence matters, and it was unclear whether any prosecution

might be brought against the agent. The MI6 agent's claims follow disclosures by Oleg Gordievsky, the former KGB officer and double agent, that computer experts from the Eastern European state are using hacking techniques to search British computers.

Mr Gordievsky, who defected to Britain in 1985 after 11 years as a double agent for MI6, said there are currently about 30 Russian agents - from both the civilian SVR and military GRU intelligence services - operating in London.

Rachel Harford, joint co-ordinator of CAAT, said: "How can universities and colleges reconcile their role as promoters of knowledge and understanding with their investments in companies that sell weapons to repressive regimes and fuel arms races around the world?"

Most of the university funds were held for scholarships or pensions and were not taxpayers' money. Several of the universities said their pension trustees were independent and had an obligation to get the best return for their clients' money.

A spokesman for the University of Glasgow, which has shares worth £1.3m in GEC, said institutional investors could not make the same moral judgements as individuals. "It's fine for a group sitting around a table to have high ideals. But if we said, 'We have been tremendously ethical but we are dreadfully sorry your pension has fallen,' who would thank us for that?" she said.

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IN THE INDEPENDENT TOMORROW

There's a prejudice against southerners that they're all wine drinkers

CLASS WAR ON CAMPUS IN THIS STUDENT LIFE

THE BEST WRITING, WEEK IN, WEEK OUT: DEBORAH ROSS, HOWARD JACOBSON, HAMISH MCRAE, IAN JACK, ROBERT FISK, TERENCE BLACKER, SU SANNAH FRANKEL, JOHN WALSH, RICHARD WILLIAMS, DAVID AARONOVITCH, DEBORAH ORR, THOMAS SUTCLIFFE, MILLS KINGTON, SUE ARNOLD, ANDREAS WHITTAM SMITH

■ HEALTH WHERE
DO WE STAND ON
GM MEDICINES?
PLUS MEDIA

New unit to treat female paedophiles

THE PRISON Service is to open its first treatment programme for female paedophiles following research which shows an increase in the number of women abusing children. The problem was highlighted by a study of 836 victims of female sexual abusers, which showed that in more than 70 per cent of cases the women acted alone.

Previously it had been thought almost all women involved in child sex abuse were acting under the influence of a male partner. A Home Office spokeswoman said: "This rise is partly due to the changing climate and more children feeling able to come forward about these sorts of crimes."

There are 20 women in prison for the sexual abuse of children. Figures show 38 women were prosecuted for such offences in 1996, although it is believed many cases are dropped because of a widespread reluctance to accept that such crimes occur.

In July an English teacher, Lucy Hayward, 30, was jailed for two years after having sex with a 15-year-old boy she had invited to her house and "plied with drugs".

Tina Purser, a nurse, was given two years' probation in 1996 after admitting she had sex with a boy of 12 when she was 26. Purser, who plied him with sweets and money, pursued the affair for two years. The family of the boy claimed he had been "raped of his innocence". But most cases of female sex abuse never come to court.

Michelle Elliott, of the charity Kidscape, which did the research, said many attackers were mothers, step-mothers and grandmothers. "Because of this the victims are some of the most damaged people that I have ever seen. They experi-

BY IAN BURRELL
AND LYNNE WALLIS

ence lifelong difficulties with relationships." It was almost unheard of for children to be snatched off the street by a female abuser and most stranger attacks were usually by babysitters or teachers. "These cases are often wrongfully described as 'seduction' when the children concerned may be only 12 or 13."

The Prison Service project will be based at Styal women's prison in Cheshire and is being



Hayward: Had sex with a boy she 'plied with drugs'

prepared by specialists including Jackie Saradyn, a consultant forensic clinical psychologist at Highroyds Psychiatric Hospital, Chester.

She said: "The Prison Service has a core programme for males, but nothing for females - the main difference between the two is that women usually don't go through the court system, because they are rarely prosecuted."

Linda Jones, head of the Prison Service's Women's Policy Group, said: "Clearly, the

problem of women abusing children is nowhere near as serious as male abuse but if it isn't addressed then it could be a risk to children.

"We are recognising the problem and this is all part of a new drive to develop more rehabilitative regimes generally."

It is anticipated that the project will be run on similar lines to the sex offender treatment programme operating in 25 male prisons around the country and using "cognitive-behavioural" treatments to get paedophiles to accept what they have done and challenge their thinking.

Sheila Brubaston, of Styal's probation department, said: "The programme will enable women firstly to accept that they have sexually abused a child, look at the triggers for their behaviour, and help develop empathy with the victim. Basically, it's about child protection but it's also looking at the woman as a victim herself."

About 70 per cent of male sex offenders were abused as children, research has shown, although the majority of those abused do not go on to abuse children themselves.

Four different studies have placed the proportion of female paedophiles who were abused at between 50 and 100 per cent.

The architects of Styal's new programme are hopeful that female offenders will be more open and responsive to therapy than men.

Ms Saradyn said: "Women have a sort of double guilt, because they have not only abused a child but have also breached the sense of how society sees women, which will hopefully enable them to take responsibility for their behaviour earlier."

Joel Thomas playing a didgeridoo he made out of plastic plumbing pipe. Mr Thomas, who sells his instruments at craft fairs all over the country, was last week invited to give a master class in the instrument to students at the Royal Academy of Music. *Kiran Ridley*

Babies borne by men 'possible'

ADVANCES in medical science mean that it is now technically possible for men to bear children, according to Britain's leading fertility expert, Professor Lord Winston.

Lord Winston, a pioneer of in-vitro fertilisation techniques, says in a new book that an embryo could be implanted in a man's abdomen - with the placenta attached to an internal organ such as the bowel - and later delivered by Caesarean section. However, other experts expressed serious misgivings about the treatment, saying the chances of a successful pregnancy were extremely low and needed to be balanced against the risks to the man's health.

The prospect of male preg-

BY JANE HUGHES

nancy, fictionalised in the film *Junior* starring Arnold Schwarzenegger, is raised in Lord Winston's book, *The IVF Revolution*, to be published in April. "It would be technically possible for a man to bear a child," said the professor, head of the fertility clinic at Hammersmith Hospital in west London and presenter of the BBC television series *The Human Body*.

He acknowledged that such a technique would involve treating the man with female hormones and could be dangerous because of the risk of bleeding. The male pregnancy would imitate an ectopic pregnancy in a woman, a condition where the



Professor Lord Winston

embryo begins to develop outside the uterus and which can prove fatal.

According to Dr Gillian Lockwood, a clinical research fellow

at the John Radcliffe hospital in Oxford, male pregnancy would be theoretically viable but the chances of success would be "thousands to one against".

In addition to the feminising side-effects of hormonal treatment, Dr Lockwood says, the man would also need a partial colostomy because the placenta would not come away cleanly. "The lining of the womb is specially designed to allow the placenta to invade it and come away freely when the baby is born," she said. "No other organ in the body can do this and without the protective uterine muscle the baby runs a real risk of being damaged."

"Even when we transfer embryos into the uterus there is

only a 50-50 chance of them becoming attached, so the chance of getting an embryo to stick in the wrong place is very low."

Doctors would have to obtain permission to carry out the treatment from the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority. A spokesman for the authority said applications would be subjected to a rigorous assessment process that would consider the reasons behind the treatment as well as its safety and effectiveness.

In theory, the technique could allow homosexual couples to have children and help heterosexual couples where the woman cannot carry a child.

Hunter Davies, Review page 4

'Deprived' village gets £300,000 pub

CHURCH LEADERS yesterday joined politicians in condemning the decision to spend almost £300,000 of public funds on Scotland's first "council pub".

With seven pubs, a bowling club, a social club and a Masonic Hall to serve a population of just 5,099, the Fife village of Carden-

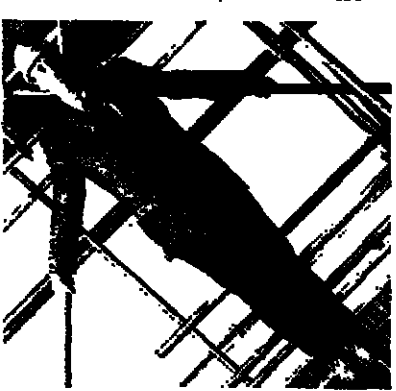
den has one licensed premises for every 500 people. But Fife Council, the European Regional Development Fund, Community Business Fife and Fife College have chipped together to bring the inhabitants another watering hole.

Critics insist the cash could

have been put to better use to fight deprivation in the area.

Mgr Tom Connolly, spokesman for the Catholic Church in Scotland, said: "I am disappointed that alcohol seems to be the driving force here when there is so little in the way of education and leisure facilities for young people."

The pub, called Goth Number Q, was originally one of hundreds of Gothenburg pubs run by the community for the community in mining villages all over Scotland. Following the Gothenburg tradition, all profits from the sale of alcohol and food will be spent in the local community.

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Thomas is of Italian/Croatian origin. Both Thomas's birth-parents are Roman Catholic. Applications will be welcome from families who can offer Thomas long term security and help him to develop a positive self-image.

If you would like to find out more about Thomas, please contact Dipti Pandya on:

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City of Westminster

Narcotics: New report reveals colossal scale of trafficking and money laundering, much of it flowing through Britain

Drugs trade 'the third largest economy'

THE DRUGS business is the third biggest economy in the world today. In fact, according to more alarmist estimates of its value, it could even be starting to catch up with the United States as the leading player in the world economy.

Like any other business, organised crime has gone global, and the drugs trade is its most profitable sector. Of necessity, the figures are mainly guesswork, but the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) of the Group of Seven leading industrial nations (G7) has estimated that at least \$120bn (£73bn) from the drugs trade are laundered through the world's financial system a year.

This extremely conservative estimate amounts to about the same as the total amount of funds invested legally in the emerging market economies last year.

The comparison gives some idea of the potential that drugs money - much of it flowing through London, the biggest foreign-exchange trading centre in the world - has to disrupt

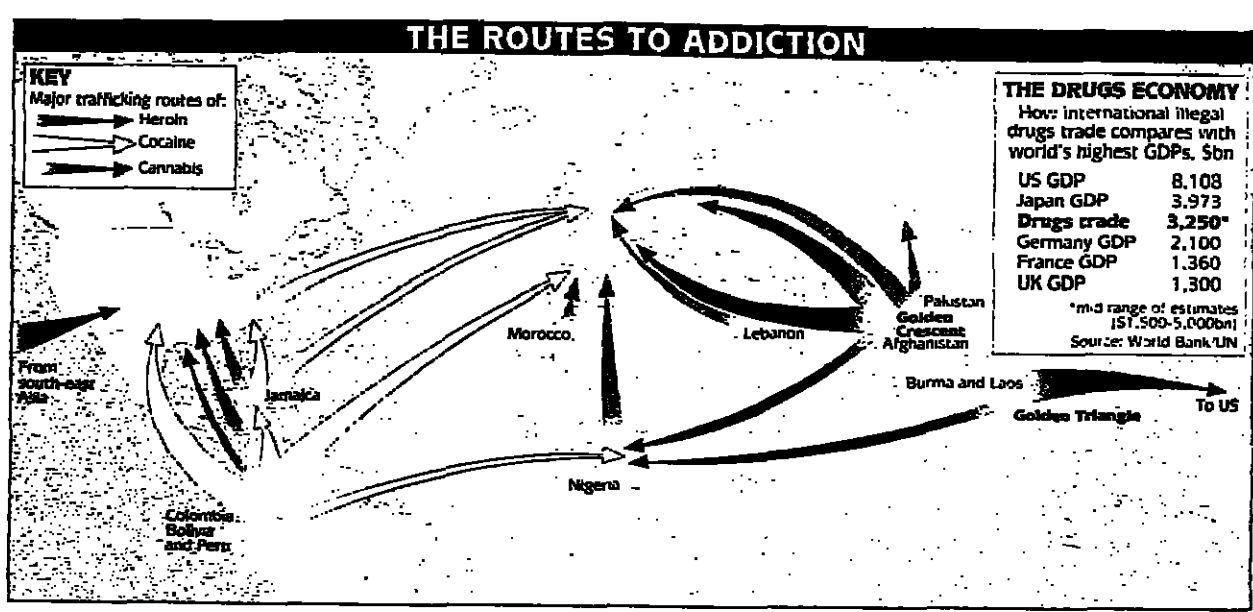
BY DIANE COYLE
Economics Editor

the financial markets. After all, 1998 was scarcely a calm year in the markets.

The G7, whose finance ministers met in Bonn at the weekend, set up the FATF to combat money laundering, bribery and other financial aspects of organised crime. Its existence is a tacit admission that these powerful countries need to engage in combat with their illegal counterparts.

For the possibility of financial turbulence is actually the least of the G7's worries. The growth of the illegal drugs trade has led to a mounting bill for the medical, social and policing costs. In the US, the annual social cost is estimated to be about \$67bn a year, according to the 1998 National Drug Strategy. More than one-third of the country's new cases of HIV are linked to the injection of drugs.

In the United Kingdom, the direct cost of dealing with serious drug abusers is estimated at well over £4bn a year. The



Office for National Statistics puts the size of the drugs economy in the UK at up to 1.2 per cent of official gross domestic product.

While it is impossible to compile comprehensive statistics - estimates of the annual value

of the worldwide trade in illegal drugs range between \$1,500bn to \$5,000bn - the direct costs alone are clearly sizeable.

But the negative economic impact goes beyond the direct costs of patching up the damage caused by drugs. It even

goes beyond the indirect costs crime imposes by disrupting the efficient functioning of the economy, making the costs of crime prevention a kind of tax.

Illegal drugs, like legal alcohol, also devalue the quality of the workforce. The policing of the

problem diverts resources that could be put to other uses. However, perhaps the most serious impact of the problem, as far as economists are concerned, is the way that illegal drugs degrade the institutions of politics and society. Take a re-

cent example. One of the serious issues facing the G7 this weekend was the slump in Japan, where the economy is contracting for the second year running, and has not really grown at all for most of the decade.

At the heart of the country's economic crisis is a near-bankrupt banking system, saddled with trillions of yen in debts that will never be repaid. The defaults were triggered in 1995 by the collapse of local savings banks that had been forced to accept bad loans by the local yokozuna, the Japanese mafia.

Drugs form Latin America's most successful export business, and provide its biggest cash crop. The region is peculiarly vulnerable to capital flight in part because its most dynamic entrepreneurs, the drugs barons, shift funds abroad. In Colombia, the Medellín cartel once even proposed to pay off the country's foreign debt in cash in return for legitimacy - a deal halted by the US.

Similarly, experts such as Manuel Castells, an eminent so-

ciologist at Berkeley, in California, argue that Russia's economy is doomed to perpetual chaos because of the activities of organised crime. The government is unable to collect tax, but the mafias can.

The drug-financed illegal economy has filled the vacuum created by the transition from Communism, and its dominance now prevents the emergence of normal economic institutions.

The FATF has reported that money laundering takes place not just through offshore financial centres, but also through high-street lawyers and accountants, banks and bureaux de change. The drugs business is eating away at the economy from within, for market economies are defined by their institutions.

Predominant among these is the rule of law in upholding property rights. The illegal drugs trade has grown to a scale that is undermining this basic framework. It is threatening the ability of the world's biggest economies to continue prospering.

How heroin is running in the veins of a tax haven

JERSEY, the tax haven associated with wealthy businessmen and quiet beaches, has developed a heroin problem to rival the worst of Britain's inner city black spots.

Seizures of drugs on the island trebled between 1997 and 1998 while warnings were issued last week that double-strength heroin was circulating, which is thought to have caused the deaths of up to three users in as many months.

In spite of low levels of crime and almost non-existent unemployment, Jersey has seen an exponential growth in the use of heroin since 1993. During that year, police seized just 4 grammes.

By 1995, that figure had grown to 410 grammes, rising to 657 last year, small in mainland terms yet significant among a population of only 85,000. As yet unpublished statistics for 1997-98 are expected to show that more than 1,200 grammes was confiscated.

"The death rate here is reflective of a community which has a sizeable opiate problem and is consistent with the worst figures ... in the UK," said Bill Saunders, head of the island's Alcohol and Drugs Service.

The service has issued warnings to users after the appearance on the island of 60 per cent pure heroin - twice as strong as usual - and the overdoses of at least two addicts. An inquest has yet to establish the cause of a third death last week, while, on the island, leaflets have been

BY STEVE BOGGAN

distributed warning: "Watch out, strong gear about."

"I reckon there are about 2,000 opiate users on the island, out of a population of 85,000, and about one-third of those will be in trouble," said Mr Saunders.

There are thought to be a number of factors why Jersey has such a problem. There is a large immigrant population working in the tourism and service industries. Housing laws dictate that no outsiders qualify to buy property until they have lived there for 20 years.

In the meantime, they must live in "unqualified" accommodation, which invariably means low quality bedsits and single rooms, a depressing "bedsitland" which can lead to solitary drug abuse.

Locals talk of a high level of incest and sexual abuse - Mr Saunders said 60 per cent of the women who come to him for help have been sexually abused. There is also a tranche of young people who feel neglected by wealthy parents who have spent more time making money than paying attention to them.

All these factors, coupled with the Channel Island's status as a holiday playground, have resulted in a heady mix open to drug abuse.

"I think heroin has now become widely acceptable to local abusers," said Detective Inspector Bob Bonney, head of Jersey's drugs squad. "This is not a problem peculiar to this



'Sarah and Jim', who are trying to kick the heroin habit: they say use of the drug is endemic on Jersey

Christian Keenan

island, but the fact that such great profits are involved from only small amounts of the drug means that the temptation is there for drug traffickers."

The profits are, indeed, huge. On the mainland, in areas like Glasgow, Manchester or central London, a gramme of heroin can cost as little as £60 to £100. According to users on Jersey, it costs them up to £200. Mr Bonney said it could cost as much as £300.

Sarah, 22, and Jim, 26, are

trying to kick the habit, but they are still occasional users. They say heroin use on Jersey is now endemic.

"A few years ago, the police clamped down on grass and hash at a time when heroin was suddenly available, so people went for it," said Sarah. "It's still available - although sometimes there are problems with supply, it comes in fits and starts."

"We started smoking it, just once a month, and then it became more regular and we

started injecting and, at our worst, we were both doing a gramme and a half a day each. We would wake up with no money and no food but, somehow, we would get drugs."

Jim, a gardener, dealt in heroin to finance their habit. "It's much more expensive here than on the mainland, but you can get it when you want it," he said. "There are not that many dealers and, usually, there is just the one batch going round."

Jim and Sarah (not their

real names) are benefiting from the island's progressive approach to the problem. Unlike many local authorities, where prevention and punishment are the watchwords, on Jersey they have adopted a "harm reduction" strategy, aimed more at rehabilitation than punishment.

Any addict who asks for help can be on a detox programme within 48 hours. Methadone, a heroin substitute, is widely available but rigorously monitored - it must be taken in the presence

of a pharmacist. Users are even given the heroin antidote, Narcan, to keep in the fridge at home for use in the event of an overdose.

"We are negotiating with the courts to concentrate more on treatment of offenders than jailing them," said Mr Saunders, who has worked with the most desperate of addicts in Glasgow and Australia.

"If we can get them off heroin here, there is less chance of them getting back on it."

Alarm at 'zombie' pill use in UK

BY IAN BURRELL
Home Affairs Correspondent

A UNITED NATIONS body will this week call for a World Health Organisation investigation into the medical effects of a stimulant drug which it says is being given to British children at a "staggering" rate.

A report by the UN's International Narcotics Control Board says that use of the drug methylphenidate, or Ritalin, has risen by 100 per cent in more than 50 countries in the past year.

The amphetamine-type drug is being prescribed by doctors to hyperactive children because it helps calm them down. But in Scotland, where its use is particularly widespread, drug-support groups say it is being sold illegally to adults.

The UN board warns that unless checks are introduced, levels of use in Britain could reach those in the United States, where one-year-olds are now being given the drug and up to 40 per cent of children in some school classes are using it.

In Britain, critics have claimed that doctors are creating classrooms of "zombies". The number of prescriptions has risen from 2,000 in 1991 to 82,000 last year. The National Health Service bill for Ritalin was £1.6m last year and this year is expected to rise above £2m.

MPs and paediatricians have called for an inquiry into the long-term effects of the drug, which is designed to help children with attention deficit disorder (ADD).

In its report, the UN calls on the governments in Britain and 10 other countries to "seek out possible over-diagnosis of ADD and curb excessive use".

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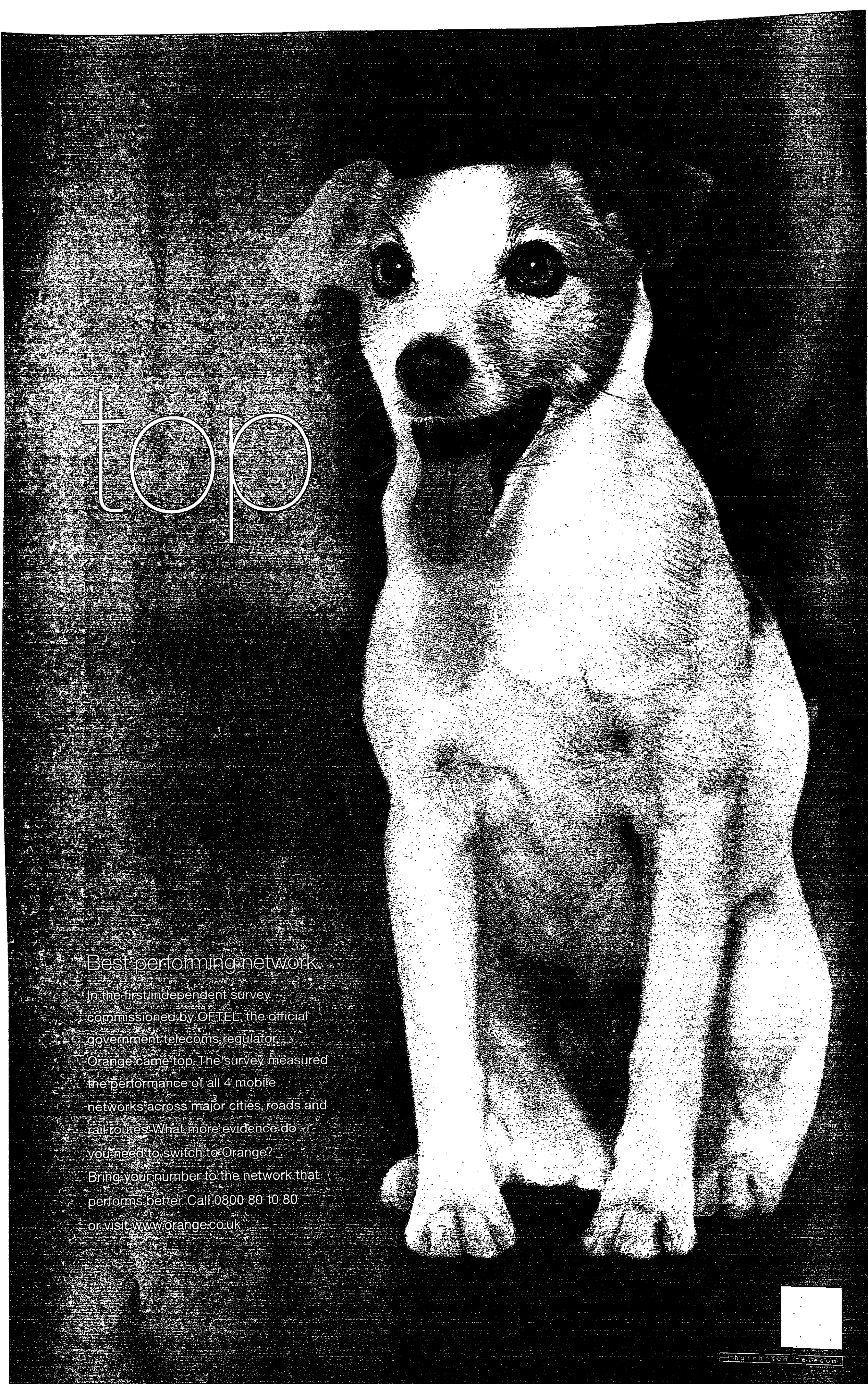
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Banks for the poor may have to reopen

BRITAIN'S high-street banks could be forced by law to reopen or keep open their branches in rural and inner-city areas and offer accounts to the poor.

Under plans being considered by ministers, the Government's proposed Financial Services Authority (FSA) may be given the power to insist that banks have a duty to prevent "financial exclusion".

The banking industry will attempt to head off regulation this week by announcing a new study into the problems to communities caused by the unprecedented wave of branch closures in recent years.

Ministers prefer self-regulation for the banks, but are making clear that the forthcoming Financial Services and Markets Bill could include reserve powers to insist on "local access" if no progress is made.

The FSA may be able to insist that banks at least provide an indoor cashpoint machine wherever they are planning to close a branch.

"We want them to prove they can get their own house in order. If they can't, then they may have to be forced to do so," said a ministerial source.

Nearly 3,500 bank branches have been closed since 1990 and the inner cities of Bristol, Birmingham, Liverpool and Glasgow have been particularly badly hit. More than one in four inner London areas have lost all their banks in the last nine years.

Most of the big four high-street banks, Barclays, Lloyds, Midland and NatWest, have claimed the rise of 24-hour telephone call centres, mergers, and the need to increase efficiency have given them no alternative but to close remote and under-used branches.

However, MPs from all parties have said that local bank branches are as crucial as local

BY PAUL WAUGH
Political Correspondent

post offices for rural communities and the inner-city poor.

The elderly, the disabled and non-car owners suffer most from the lack of face-to-face banking, but research shows that local businesses also face a loss in turnover of up to 25 per cent following a closure.

Following pressure from MPs and the Government, the British Bankers Association (BBA) will announce this week that it is setting up an independent study into the issue.

The review will look at a range of options that may include "community banks", single outlets that would offer services for a number of banks allowing them to cut costs.

It will also examine the possibility of greater co-operation with community-based credit unions to allow the poor to start their own bank accounts.

Banks demand passports and driving licences for any account to be set up, but many poor people don't possess either and ministers want other proof of identity to be allowed.

Up to 3.5 million people in the UK do not have bank accounts and the Economic Secretary to the Treasury, Patricia Hewitt, has urged banks to tackle this.

The Financial Services and Markets Bill is currently being considered by a joint committee of both the House of Commons and Lords.

Derek French, director of the Campaign for Community Banking Services, said: "The loss of its last or only bank is a major blow to any community. What is certain is that if no action is taken, the problems for consumers will increase and the banks' already tarnished image will be further damaged," he said.



Tory backbenchers restless about William Hague's leadership see Kenneth Clarke a 'big hitter popular with the punters' Doug Mark

Tory backbenchers begin to put their faith in the Clarke option

YOUR PARTY'S poll ratings have flattened and you've got a party leader who's as popular as a Monsanto salesman at a Greenpeace rally. So, as a Tory MP in dire need of an electoral saviour, who you gonna call?

Step forward the soft shoe shuffler himself, Britain's number one Notts County fan and darling of Cuban cigar factory workers, the Right Honourable Kenneth Clarke.

That was the plea this week from more than a handful of Conservative backbenchers who are restless about William Hague's failure to dent the Government's popularity.

Even right-wing Eurosceptics are now heard in Commons bars and backrooms

BY PAUL WAUGH

proclaiming the Clarke option. "We might as well face it sooner rather than later. Hague's going to lose us the next election," one said. "At least with Ken, we'd have a big hitter who was popular with the punters."

This recent rash of speculation was prompted last Sunday by none other than Tony Blair, who appealed to the former Chancellor to wrest back control of the Tories from its rabid right. As Valentines go, it was neither finesse nor publicity welcome to the Clarke camp, but the Prime Minister's intervention prompted MPs to reassert that most Tory of instincts, self-preservation.

However, "that podgy life insurance risk", as Mr Clarke is memorably described in Alan Clark's *Diaries*, has skillfully spent the past few days rising above the Westminster gossip, letting the rumour mill do its work. On the face of it, Mr Clarke has behaved of late like the very model of a modern Tory backbencher. Ever loyal on the record, he praised Mr Hague's "compassionate Conservatism" speeches in the United States and popped up during a Commons debate to attack Labour's reforms of the House of Lords.

Significantly, Mr Clarke has not ruled out leading the Tories and his allies point out that under the new one-member,

one-vote leadership rules, his popularity with the grass roots could clinch him the top job. They point out that during the last Tory leadership contest, he came top of the ballot on the first round of voting by MPs and he won the overwhelming backing of constituency chairmen up and down the country. Musings about a Clarke leadership were further heightened in a poll that showed a breakaway pro-Europe Tory party would split the vote in the European elections in June. With Clarke as its leader, it would command 19 per cent, compared with 20 per cent for a Hague-led official party.

With rebel Tory MEPs, John Stevens and Brendan Donnel-

ly due this week to attempt to register their new party, the pressure will be on Mr Clarke to publicly distance himself from such claims. Privately, he makes clear he sympathises with those frustrated by Mr Hague's hardline stance on the euro, but he has no intention of leaving to form another party.

When Mr Clarke last ran against William Hague, his opponents were heard repeating their slogan: "It's easy as ABC: Anybody But Clarke." As Mr Hague's personal ratings nose-dive, it may be now that the crumpled, but canny, backbencher may follow his trademark Hush Puppies and come back in fashion.

Blair vetoes job for Davies

BY PAUL WAUGH

TONY BLAIR has personally vetoed Ron Davies from being given a high-ranking post in the new Welsh Assembly, it emerged last night.

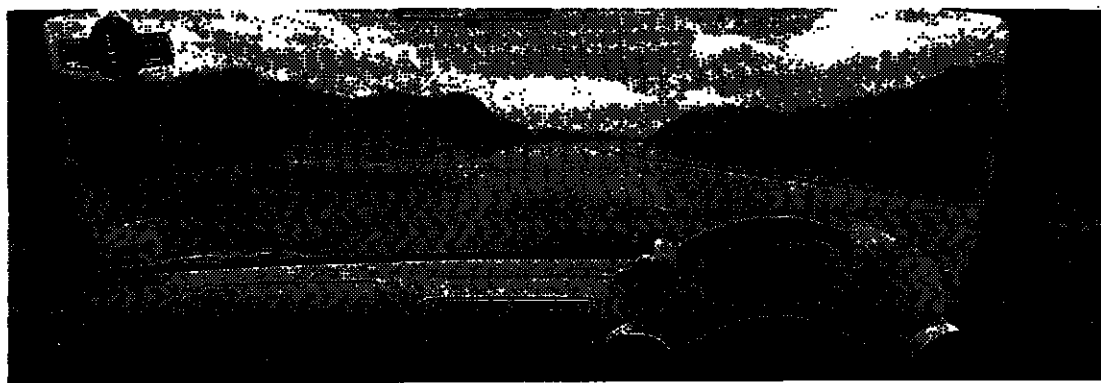
The former Welsh Secretary and MP for Caerphilly has been selected to stand in May's assembly elections, but his replacement, Alan Michael, will not be allowed to offer him a seat in any ruling "cabinet". The decision is understood to have stemmed from anxiety in Downing Street that voters would react badly to such a rapid political rehabilitation.

It is five months since Mr Davies quit the Cabinet after a "moment of madness" on London's Clapham Common, when he agreed to an assignation with a stranger before being robbed at knifepoint.

It is understood Downing Street tried twice to dissuade him from standing for the assembly, but he defied the pressure. His supporters claim Welsh voters do not believe the incident had damaged him permanently. They also believe he has enough support among assembly candidates to be elected First Secretary of Wales if Mr Michael should fail to win his top-up seat in the proportional elections.

However, Mr Michael, who yesterday confirmed for the first time that he would resign his Westminster seat at the next general election, may offer a post to Rhodri Morgan. He said "the inevitable conclusion" of his decision to stand for the Welsh Assembly was that he would not seek re-election for his Cardiff South and Penarth parliamentary seat. A meeting between Mr Morgan, who was narrowly defeated for the leadership of the Wales Labour Party, and Mr Michael will take place this week.

Their discussions are aimed at working out how the party can capitalise on Mr Morgan's popularity with the public in the campaign to help it win outright control of the assembly. Trade-union block votes meant Mr Morgan lost the leadership contest by a margin of just over 5 per cent.



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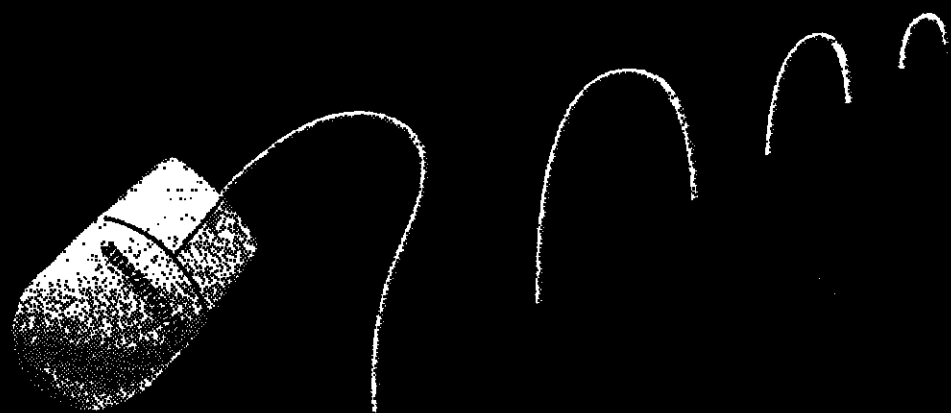
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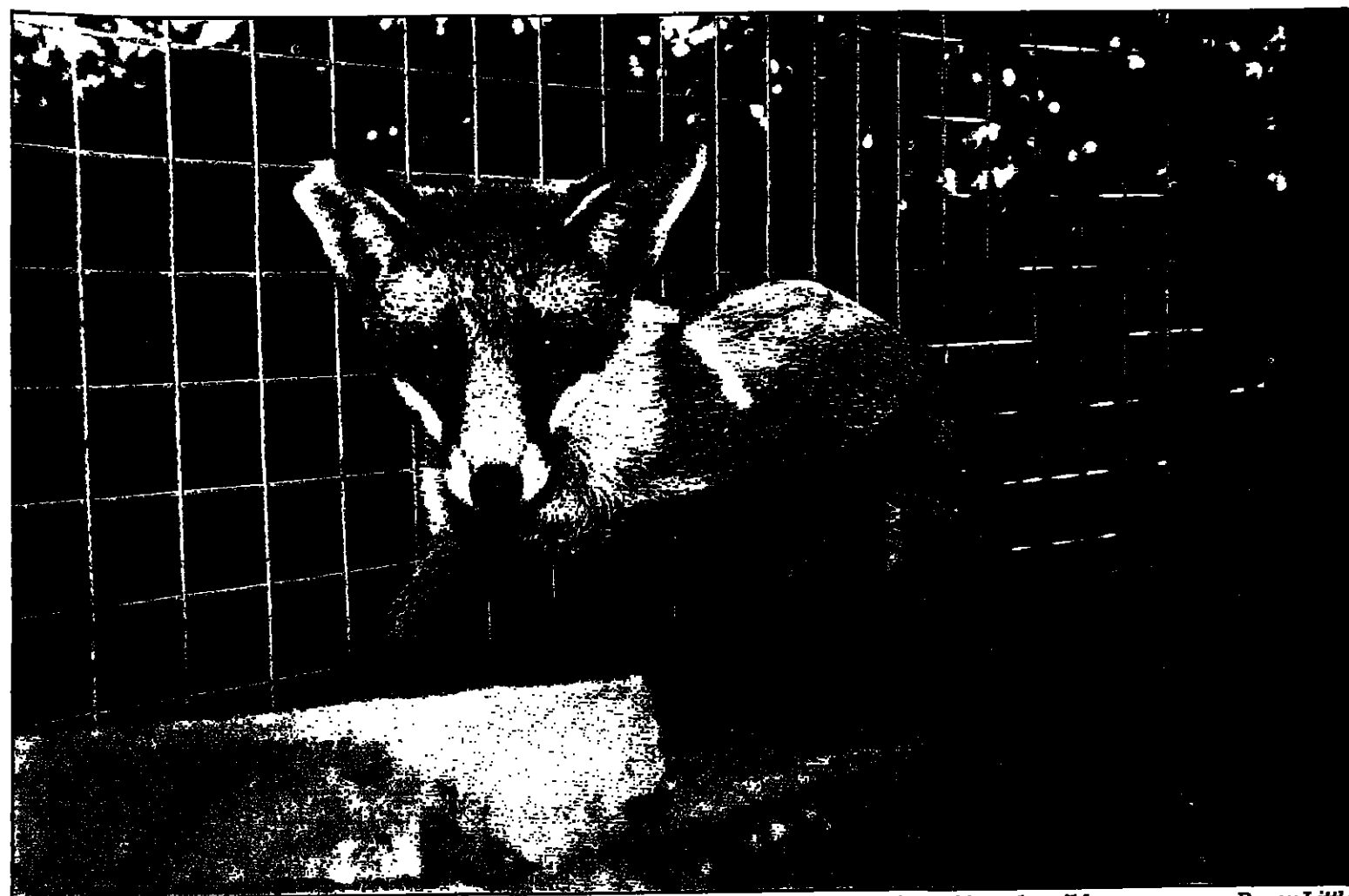
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Shadow, one of the cubs found trapped on land owned by the Sinnington Hunt and now released into the wild

Penny Little

Caged fox cubs are returned to wild

BY KIM SENGUPTA

THE FOX cubs were three months old, terrified and in pain. Their ears had been mutilated, they were hungry and bedraggled and imprisoned in a tiny cage where they could barely stand up on the floor of mud.

The discovery of the cubs in a baited trap on land owned by the Sinnington Hunt, Yorkshire, was publicised by *The Independent* and led to an outcry. There were investigations by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and Masters of Foxhounds Association into the first photographic proof that foxes were being captured for hunting, negating the argument of blood-sport enthusiasts that hunting was a form of keeping down wild vermin.

After the rescue of the cubs the RSPCA and other bodies received dozens of offers of temporary homes for them and suggestions of where they could be released without the danger of being killed by a hunt. Now *The Independent* can reveal that, after a period

of recuperation, the cubs have been successfully released back into the wild.

After treatment they were taken to an animal sanctuary in Oxfordshire, one of a network used by animal welfare agencies. The locations are not publicised because of fear of intimidation by blood-sport supporters. In this case there was the additional factor that the cubs comprised possible evidence on animal-cruelty charges.

The sanctuary is run by Penny Little, a long-time animal welfare activist. She said: "The most striking thing about these two poor little cubs was how frightened and traumatised they were."

"Fox cubs are normally the most playful and most inquisitive of creatures. But these two were very frightened of people. At the beginning, whenever someone went into their pen, they literally soiled themselves out of fright. They had the look in their eyes you

see sometimes in dogs which have been beaten or ill-treated by their owners."

"The other dreadful thing was that both had one of their ears sliced off. It had been done in a very rough and ready way and not treated afterwards. You can imagine the pain of that being done. I presume the reason for this was to identify the cubs after they were killed."

"One of the cubs would spend his time hiding under a pile of logs; the other one was a bit more confident. But after a while we could hear them playing during the night and their health recovered."

Now the two cubs have been released after a period of acclimatisation in the autumn. Ms Little said: "I gather they have adjusted well after being free in the wild. I simply can't understand how anyone could get any pleasure out of tormenting such little cubs."

The RSPCA eventually dropped the case against the Sinnington because it could not prove it was directly involved in the trapping.

Constable may face murder charge

A POLICEMAN may be charged with murder while his four chief officers have been criticised following the shooting dead of a naked man in his bedroom.

The Director of Public Prosecutions will announce shortly whether Constable Chris Sherwood is to be charged with murder, and a chief constable, his deputy, and two assistant chief constables from Sussex police with conspiracy to pervert the course of justice.

While the senior officers are expected to be cleared of any criminal offences, they are facing criticism by an outside inquiry for providing misleading and inaccurate information on the victim, James Ashley, following his shooting in January last year. At least one is expected to be disciplined.

If PC Sherwood is charged he would become only the second police officer in modern times to be accused of committing murder in the course of his duties.

An unprecedented set of inquiries was carried out into the death of Mr Ashley, 39, who was shot in the chest during an early-morning raid at his flat in Hastings, East Sussex. He was naked and had been in bed with a girlfriend.

The morning after the incident, which happened at about 4am, Paul Whitehouse, the Chief Constable of Sussex, backed the operation and said the officers had been investigating drugs-trafficking and the attempted murder of a man stabbed outside a pub. He said the suspect they were after was considered "armed and dangerous".

It later emerged that Mr Ashley, far from being a suspect, had pulled the assailant off the victim and may have saved a life.

Two inquiries were set up. Barbara Wilding, Assistant Chief Constable of Kent, investigated the circumstances surrounding the shooting. PC Sherwood and four colleagues from Sussex Police's Special Operations Unit were suspended.

PC Sherwood is expected to argue that before the raid he had attended a briefing with 30 other

BY JASON BENNETTO
Crime Correspondent

officers where they were told that Mr Ashley, and others believed to be in the flat, were violent, dangerous and likely to be armed. No gun was found.

He is also expected to say that before he fired he was looking into the dark through the sight of his Heckler & Koch assault rifle when he saw a man coming towards him with his armed stretched out.

A separate inquiry by Hampshire police examined how the inaccurate information came to be broadcast. The four officers investigated were Mr Whitehouse, his deputy Mark Jordan and assistant chief constables Nigel Yeo and Maria Wallis.

Sources say that some of the officers were found to have been "economical with the truth" and should not have commented on the case until the facts had been established. It will be up to Sussex Police Authority to decide what, if any, disciplinary action should be taken. But an indication that the authority is prepared to take action was given last Friday when Mr Jordan, 40, was suspended.

A claim for damages has been made on behalf of Mr Ashley's 14-year-old son, James, who lives in Liverpool.

A former policeman is to be tried for the second time for the murder of an 18-year-old girl, the Crown Office confirmed yesterday. The case is believed to be one of the first where someone has been charged twice for the same crime.

Alexander Hall, who served with Strathclyde Police, was convicted of the murder of Lorna Porter in 1988. Her body, with her throat slit, was found on waste ground in Belshill in 1984.

But after serving nearly 11 years, Hall had his conviction quashed at an appeal in December. He was kept in custody because of the severity of his sentence and a fresh indictment was served on him in Perth prison.

He will appear at the High Court in Edinburgh on 22 March.

Bank suspends Lord Archer's trader son

JAMES ARCHER, the son of the millionaire and author Lord Archer, has been suspended from his job as a City trader and is under investigation for alleged financial irregularities, it emerged yesterday.

The investment bank Credit Suisse First Boston said Mr Archer, 24, and his team of two traders who worked as share dealers, were suspended last week. City regulators are believed to be investigating the

actions of the team. A spokeswoman for CSFB said: "James Archer, David Crasanti and Adrian Ezra have been suspended from the firm. The matter is under investigation."

The team, known for high living and hard work, earned the nickname the "Flamingo Frenzy" after their favourite cocktail. They were renowned in the City for making highly risky share bets, sometimes worth up to £3bn a time.

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Turkey warns EU over Kurds' rights

TURKEY ISSUED a warning to European governments to stay out of its dealings with its Kurdish minority yesterday.

It was the first sign of Turkish fears that the capture last week of Abdullah Ocalan, the Kurdish rebel leader, may focus international attention on Turkey's Kurds. Greece is seeking to bring Mr Ocalan's arrest before a meeting of European Union foreign ministers today.

"Turks and Kurds of Turkey are of one nation," said the Turkish Prime Minister, Bülent Ecevit, yesterday, insisting Turkey would never accept autonomy for its Kurds.

In contrast to the racist heritage and tendencies of certain European nations, we have no concept of racial differentiation, and there has been no instance, of racial conflict or discrimination in Turkish history.

It is hard to reconcile Mr Ecevit's words with the facts. Mr Ocalan's Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) has carried

BY JUSTIN HUGGLER
in Istanbul

out a 14-year campaign of violence and terror to win Kurdish autonomy in south-east Turkey. Kurds are denied minority rights under Turkish law. Kurdish language broadcasting is illegal, and the language cannot be taught in schools.

"I hope no European government will attempt to bargain at Turkey's expense with the PKK terrorists who have savagely occupied and rampaged public buildings and consulates in recent days," Mr Ecevit said yesterday. "Any compromise with terrorists would inevitably encourage them to [commit] further atrocities and bring humiliation to the governments concerned."

Violent Kurdish protests erupted around the world when Turkish special forces snatched Mr Ocalan from Kenya last week. Protesters denied that their activities had been co-ordinated by the PKK.

Mr Ecevit's remarks are likely to put a further strain on relations with the EU. Turkey has long aspired to join the union but member states have cited human rights abuses in the struggle with the PKK as an obstacle to membership.

The Turkish Foreign Minister, Ismail Cem, yesterday called on the EU to examine Greece's involvement in sheltering Mr Ocalan.

The Kurdish leader was staying at the Greek embassy in Nairobi before he was captured, and Ankara accuses Greece and Greek-backed Cyprus of providing training facilities and assistance to the PKK.

Turkish officials have relished Greece's humiliation in the capture of Mr Ocalan. Three Greek ministers have resigned. "Those circles and governments who provoked or condoned PKK atrocities must have realised during recent days that they were playing with fire," Mr Ecevit said.

Mr Ocalan remains under in-

terrogation on a prison island in the Sea of Marmara. There were unconfirmed reports that he would make a video appeal for PKK guerrillas to surrender.

Turkey has reacted angrily to calls from several European governments to ensure Mr Ocalan gets a fair trial. Mr Ecevit yesterday called on foreign governments not to "put pressure" on Turkish courts. "We would consider such attempts as an unacceptable affront to Turkish justice," he said.

The Turkish Prime Minister said he believed that the problems of Turkey's Kurds could be solved by social and economic help for the underdeveloped Kurdish regions. He reiterated his call to PKK guerrillas to surrender.

A repentance law before parliament would guarantee shorter sentences for those who gave themselves up, he said. But the PKK has vowed to fight on, and has warned that Turkey will "face the consequences" if Mr Ocalan is harmed.



Iranian women in Tehran protest yesterday at the capture of Kurd rebel Abdullah Ocalan. Behrouz Mehriz/AFP

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Ocalan 'our best hope for freedom'

"HE WAS OUR LEADER and our best hope for freedom," says Mehmet Yilmaz, one of the few Kurds in Istanbul willing to talk about Turkey's capture of Abdullah Ocalan.

Mr Yilmaz, a short man with a heavy beard, watched last week as the guerrilla leader was humiliatedly paraded in front of Turkish flags on national television.

"All we want is freedom and political rights. We want to live like humans but the world won't let us," he said.

Mehmet Yilmaz is not his real name: he says if he gave his name he could be arrested. He claims to have been tortured in the past on suspicion of links with Mr Ocalan's Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK). He denies the links but he is a supporter of the organisation.

"I'm angry with Europe," he says. "They let us down. We've been crying out for our freedom for years but the world won't give us our rights. Last week the Israelis killed Kurds. This proves the Kurds will always be killed by all governments." Three Kurdish demonstrators were shot dead by Israeli security guards when they tried to occupy the Israeli consulate in Berlin.

"It's clear that there was an international plot to seize Abdullah Ocalan," says Mr Yilmaz. He believes that the CIA and the Israeli intelligence service, Mossad, were involved in Mr Ocalan's capture, despite US and Israeli denials.

Kurds fleeing the fighting between the PKK and security forces in south-east Turkey have given Istanbul the biggest Kurdish concentration anywhere. But few were willing to talk about Mr Ocalan's capture. "What do you expect?" says Mr Yilmaz. "They've ar-

BY JUSTIN HUGGLER

rested a lot of people. Nobody knows where it will end."

Turkey has almost silenced the Kurds with mass arrests in the wake of Mr Ocalan's capture. Over the weekend the number in custody was reported to have reached 1,000.

The Istanbul headquarters of HADEP, a legally recognised Kurdish political party, are surrounded by police armed with machine-guns. While protest has been rare elsewhere, in Turkey it has been limited to sporadic street violence.

"People here are too scared to talk. The police arrested one of my friends yesterday," said one Kurd living in the gecekondu, the desperately poor shanty towns where Istanbul's destitute live. He says he came here after security forces burned his village in the south-east.

"The Kurds are always either killing or being killed," says Mr Yilmaz. "The Kurdish people want peace, but there is no answer when we ask for our rights. There is only one way: to fight." Mr Yilmaz angrily rejects the suggestion that Mr Ocalan is a terrorist. "Isn't it clear that he's a leader fighting for his people's democratic freedom? They say he killed 37,000 people but that's not true. It's a war. The government has all sorts of weapons but the Kurds have only their hearts. I think if anyone calls him a terrorist they are practising terrorism against the Kurds."

Mr Yilmaz is unimpressed by the Turkish government's offer of partial amnesty for PKK guerrillas who surrender. "There are thousands of guerrillas in the mountains. They will fight to the end. They will never give up their freedom."

IN BRIEF

General leading in Nigeria poll

THE PEOPLES Democratic Party of retired General Olusegun Obasanjo, a presidential hopeful, held a comfortable lead in elections for the National Assembly in northern and eastern Nigeria yesterday with about one-third of the votes counted, radio reports quoting election officials said.

Brothers' death-row gamble

CONVICTED KILLERS Karl and Walter LaGrand have rejected dying in Phoenix, Arizona, by painless injection and opted for an agonising death by cyanide fumes. The brothers hope it will stop them from becoming the first Germans to be executed in the US, on grounds that the gas is "cruel and unusual punishment" and unconstitutional.

Sudan leader talks of secession

THE PRESIDENT of Sudan, Omar Hassan al-Bashir, has said he is ready to let the south secede if that would end the 15-year civil war. State television on Saturday quoted Mr Bashir as saying he would try to preserve the unity of the mainly Muslim north and the Christian and animist south but that secession was better than war.

Further talks on Gibraltar

BRITAIN AND Spain held inconclusive talks over the disputed colony of Gibraltar yesterday, agreeing only to hold more meetings. "There was no breakdown and no breakthrough," a senior British official said after talks between the nations' foreign ministers in Luxembourg.

Pakistan and India soothe nuclear fears

IN THEIR summit meeting in Lahore, the first to be held on Pakistani soil for ten years, the prime ministers of Pakistan and India took steps yesterday to allay the world's fears that south Asia has become a dangerous new nuclear flashpoint.

In what they called the Lahore Declaration, signed in imperial grandeur in the Lahore governor's residence under the eyes of long-dead British governors of undivided Punjab, they pledged their two nations to "a vision of peace and stability... and of progress and prosperity for their peoples". They also vowed to take "immediate steps" to reduce "the risk of accidental or unauthorized use of nuclear weapons" - without further elaboration.

In a memorandum of understanding released at the same time, they promised to give each other advance notice of ballistic missile flights, and to abide by their existing respective moratoriums on nu-

By PETER POPHAM
in Lahore

clear testing, unless circumstances dictated otherwise. According to India's Prime Minister, Atal Behari Vajpayee, the comprehensive Test Ban Treaty was discussed but no decision was taken on signing it.

Although described in advance as the most important political breakthrough between the two countries for one-quarter of a century, the agreement was somewhat short on fresh, concrete initiatives. As had been predicted, the feud over Kashmir was addressed only for the purpose of side-stepping it, though the premiers promised to "intensify the dialogue process" over the state's future.

But even on the question of nuclear security, the statements were vague. Nearly a year after India's nuclear tests, the best formula they could de-

vised was to "undertake a review of the existing communication links... with a view to upgrading and improving these links, and to provide for fail-safe and secure communications". There seemed to be startling complacency about the impossibility of anything much going amiss before the civil servants have undertaken their leisurely review.

Warm sentiment, however, is where it needs to start and Mr Vajpayee provided that in buckets yesterday. An amateur poet whose work has just been released in Urdu, he treated Lahore as a teatime on the lawn of the governor's residence to a characteristic extemporaneous oration, full of alarmingly long pauses and flight of lyrical fancy.

He told the audience of his hatred of nuclear weapons. "At the time of the nuclear blasts, I was reminded of the poem I wrote when I visited Hiroshima and Nagasaki," he said. "I want

to make it clear that those bombs were used not for defence and they are still a source of suffering to people who are still leading very difficult lives. We want a nuclear-free world. We will not use nuclear weapons. We want to build friendship."

At the joint press conference, Pakistan's Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, like the businessman that he is, spoke more bluntly and to the point of the need to "comprehensively recreate our relationship... we must bring peace and prosperity to south Asia. We owe this to the future generations."

Outside, the crowds were circling over a city whose calm was not all it appeared. Earlier in the day more than 20 people were injured in clashes between police and protesters belonging to Jamaat-i-Islami Party. Elsewhere in the city thousands of riot police and soldiers clamped

a sullen peace on the city. After his historic bus ride from India to Pakistan, Mr Vajpayee went home the fast way - by aircraft - from a country whose commitment to neighbourly amity is still less than total.



India's Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee (left) and his Pakistani counterpart, Nawaz Sharif, showing goodwill in Lahore yesterday AP

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\$25,000 or more	Annually	5.70	5.70	4.56	5.50	5.50	4.40
\$10,000 - \$24,999	Annually	5.60	5.60	4.48	5.40	5.40	4.32
\$25,000 - \$9,999	Annually	5.50	5.50	4.40	5.30	5.30	4.24
\$25,000 or more	Monthly	5.56	5.70	4.44	5.37	5.50	4.29
\$10,000 - \$24,999	Monthly	5.46	5.60	4.37	5.27	5.40	4.29
\$5,000 - \$9,999	Monthly	5.37	5.50	4.29	5.17	5.30	4.14
\$1,000 or more	Annually	5.75	5.75	4.60	5.25	5.25	4.20
\$5,000 or more	Monthly	5.60	5.75	4.48	5.13	5.25	4.10
\$100,000 or more	Annually	5.70	5.70	4.56	5.20	5.20	4.16
\$25,000 - \$99,999	Annually	5.30	5.30	4.24	4.75	4.75	3.80
\$10,000 - \$24,999	Annually	5.25	5.25	4.20	4.70	4.70	3.76
\$1,000 - \$9,999	Annually	4.55	4.55	3.84	4.10	4.10	3.28
\$25,000 or more	Monthly	5.56	5.70	4.44	5.08	5.20	4.06
\$10,000 - \$24,999	Monthly	5.17	5.30	4.14	4.65	4.75	3.72
\$5,000 - \$9,999	Monthly	5.13	5.25	4.10	4.60	4.70	3.68
\$5,000 - \$9,999	Monthly	4.46	4.55	3.57	4.02	4.10	3.22
\$25,000 or more	Annually	2.20	2.20	1.76	1.70	1.70	1.36
\$10,000 - \$24,999	Annually	1.70	1.70	1.36	1.20	1.20	0.96
\$1,000 - \$9,999	Annually	0.75	0.75	0.60	0.50	0.50	0.40
\$25,000 or more	Monthly	2.18	2.20	1.74	1.69	1.70	1.35
\$10,000 - \$24,999	Monthly	1.69	1.70	1.35	1.19	1.20	0.96
\$5,000 - \$9,999	Monthly	0.75	0.75	0.60	0.50	0.50	0.40

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Amount Invested	Interest Paid	GROSS*	AER**	NET*	GROSS*	AER**	NET*
\$1,000 or more	Annually	5.70	5.70	4.56	5.10	5.10	4.08
\$5,000 or more	Monthly	5.56	5.70	4.44	4.98	5.10	3.99
\$100,000 or more	Annually	5.00	5.00	4.00	4.50	4.50	3.60
\$25,000 - \$99,999	Annually	4.70	4.70	3.76	4.15	4.15	3.32
\$10,000 - \$24,999	Annually	4.20	4.20	3.36	3.70	3.70	2.96
\$1,000 - \$9,999	Annually	3.80	3.80	3.04	3.40	3.40	2.72
\$25,000 or more	Monthly	4.60	4.70	3.68	4.07	4.15	3.26
\$10,000 - \$24,999	Monthly	4.12	4.20	3.30	3.64	3.70	2.91
\$100,000 or more	Annually	4.75	4.75	3.80	4.20	4.20	3.36
\$25,000 - \$99,999	Annually	4.10	4.10	3.28	3.55	3.55	2.84
\$10,000 - \$24,999	Annually	3.60	3.60	2.88	3.05	3.05	2.44
\$5,000 - \$9,999	Annually	3.20	3.20	2.56	2.65	2.65	2.12
\$100,000 or more	Monthly	4.65	4.75	3.72	4.12	4.20	3.30
\$25,000 - \$99,999	Monthly	4.02	4.10	3.22	3.49	3.55	2.79
\$10,000 - \$24,999	Monthly	3.54	3.60	2.83	3.01	3.05	2.41
\$5,000 - \$9,999	Monthly	3.15	3.20	2.52	2.62	2.65	2.09
\$25,000 or more	Annually	4.70	4.70	3.76	4.20	4.20	3.36
\$10,000 - \$24,999	Annually	4.20	4.20	3.36	3.70	3.70	2.96
\$5,000 or more	Monthly	4.60	4.70	3.68	4.12	4.20	3.30
\$10,000 - \$24,999	Monthly	4.12	4.20	3.30	3.64	3.70	2.91
\$100,000 or more	Annually	4.75	4.75	3.80	4.20	4.20	3.36
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\$10,000 - \$24,999	Annually	3.60	3.60	2.88	3.05	3.05	2.44
\$5,000 - \$9,999	Annually	3.20	3.20	2.56	2.65	2.65	2.12
\$100,000 or more	Monthly	4.65	4.75	3.72	4.12	4.20	3.30
\$25,000 - \$99,999	Monthly	4.02	4.10	3.22	3.49	3.55	2.79
\$10,000 - \$24,999	Monthly	3.54	3.60	2.83	3.01	3.05	2.41
\$5,000 - \$9,999	Monthly	3.15	3.20	2.52	2.62	2.65	2.09
\$25,000 or more	Half-yearly	2.20	2.21	1.76	1.70	1.71	1.36
\$10,000 - \$24,999	Half-yearly	1.70	1.71	1.36	1.20	1.20	0.96
\$1,000 - \$9,999	Half-yearly	0.75	0.75	0.60	0.50	0.50	0.40
\$100 or more	Monthly	1.70	1.71	1.36	1.15	1.16	0.92

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Hillary reaches first hurdle

THE POLITICS of the Middle East have surfaced as a potential obstacle to Hillary Clinton's ambitions.

Mrs Clinton's expressed support for a Palestinian state has been raised as a possible issue in the race for the New York Senate seat which she may contest.

Rudolph Giuliani, Mayor of New York City and the most likely Republican candidate, is using it as a weapon against her. It is one of a number of signs that Mrs Clinton's candidacy may be waning.

Mrs Clinton last year expressed support for a Palestinian state at a time when Israel was blocking progress on Middle East peace. The White House immediately said the

BY ANDREW MARSHALL
in Washington

this was a personal position taken by Mrs Clinton, and not US policy.

"I'm in the same position as the White House and Mrs Clinton is out there favouring the Palestinians," Mr Giuliani said yesterday in a TV interview.

The statement about Palestine came as the White House was trying to manoeuvre the Israelis back to the negotiating table. One of the levers it had was the threat that if Yasser Arafat declared a Palestinian state this year, the US would align itself with him against the Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu.

New York City has a large

Jewish population, though it is by no means clear Mrs Clinton's statement would count against her. The American Jewish population disapproved of Mr Netanyahu's resistance to peace negotiations. But the appearance of the issue is a sign that Mrs Clinton will not get a free ride to the Senate.

She would have a strong chance if she chose to stand. She scored well in an opinion poll by Time magazine and CNN, which put her ahead of Mr Giuliani by 52 per cent to 43 per cent. Her lead was especially strong in New York City.

But Mr Giuliani is seen as a strong voice on New York's interests. Mrs Clinton was born in Illinois, lives in Washington and spent many years in Arkansas.

Doubts expressed by people close to US Vice-President Al Gore put a further question-mark over her candidacy. "Mr Gore may have more to lose than gain if Mrs Clinton runs in New York," The New York Times reported yesterday.

The campaign would draw support from Mr Gore, who is all but certain to be the Democratic candidate for president in 2000. It would focus the President's attention on New York and draw money and celebrity attention away from him, the report said.

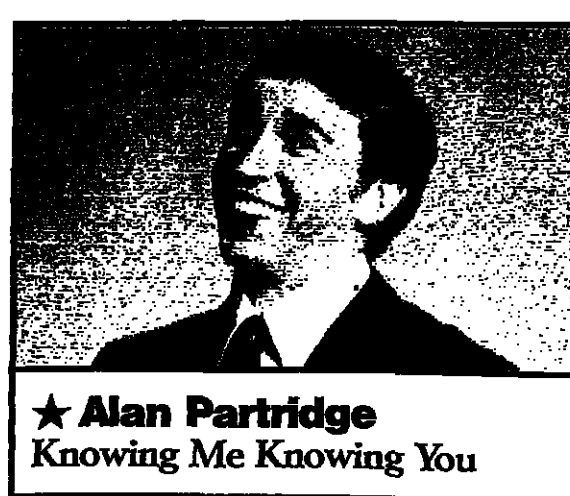
Sources close to Mr Gore also told reporters last week that on balance they thought it unlikely Mrs Clinton would run. She has not decided yet and may not do so for some weeks.

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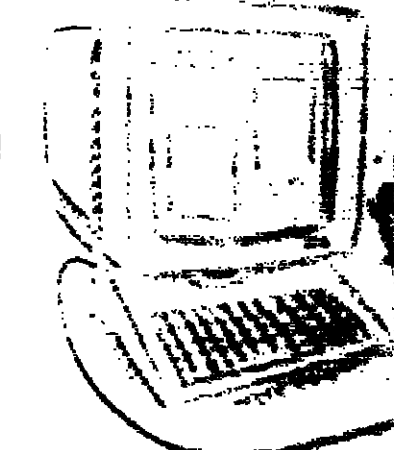
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Germans invite wrath of EU farmers

GERMANY HAS tabled the toughest set of proposals yet for reforming the Common Agricultural Policy, in a move likely to pave the way for curbs on the British budget rebate, according to a document sent to European Union ministers.

The paper outlines plans which could provoke a crisis in Germany's relationship with France, which is resisting more headline CAP reform.

But the document will also antagonise London by targeting "windfall benefits" of the budget rebate, and Madrid, by questioning whether nations deemed rich enough to join the euro, like Spain, should be eligible for cohesion funds designed to aid the most backward areas.

Bonn is likely to say reduced spending on agriculture, from

BY STEPHEN CASTLE
in Brussels

which the UK benefits relatively little, will remove much of the justification for the rebate.

Germany, which holds the EU presidency, is the biggest EU paymaster, contributing \$8bn a year. Chancellor, Gerhard Schröder is determined to reach a deal next month which will cut Bonn's bills.

Its proposal will confirm the fears of much of the EU's agricultural sector, calling for a freeze on spending at 1999 levels between 2000 and 2006.

Worse, from France's perspective, the document still presses for "certain forms of co-financing", under which a proportion of spending on agriculture comes directly from national coffers. This has been

rejected by Paris on principle.

Bonn wants to set a ceiling on CAP expenditure for the 15 EU nations at 40.5bn euros (\$58bn) a year (the current spending) on average for the years 2000-2006. Under the Agenda 2000 proposals, suggested by the European Commission, guaranteed prices for beef, cereals and dairy products will be cut to a level closer to world prices, but farmers will be paid compensation to make up for the drop in revenue.

Germany thinks it has support for plans to cut that compensation, year on year. That is significant because, once the reforms are completed, compensation payments could constitute the majority of CAP payments.

The paper says: "In the event of higher ceilings being

required in the initial years of the new financial perspective, this would result in an amount lower than the average at the end of the period."

The paper says it expects the decreasing cost of farm support "visible at the end of the present period for the EU 15 to continue after 2006". France has accepted the idea of "degressive" spending but expected the idea of co-financing to be shelved in return, and reform of the dairy sector to be scaled down.

With no hint of compromise from Bonn, France may be close to provoking a confrontation with Germany at a one-day summit of heads of government due on Friday. Germany is likely to say CAP reform will make the rationale for the British rebate redundant, because the mechanism

was conceived in 1984 to redress the fact that the UK gains relatively little from EU farming support.

On the British rebate, the paper calls for adjustments resulting in the "neutralisation of windfall" benefits, and definition of the areas of "allocated expenditure" covered by the rebate, worth £2bn a year on average. That is code for a move to take the costs of enlarging the EU out of the spending for which the UK is given a rebate.

The paper mentions "possible phasing-in/phasing-out arrangements" and Bonn is expected to press for a year-on-year reduction in the value of the mechanism.

The "windfall" refers to the fact that current spending in Central and Eastern Europe is not covered by the rebate,

which encompasses only spending within the EU, but will be when the new countries join. Britain argues that, although this is the case, the UK will still be worse off after enlargement because of the costs of an expanded CAP and increased structural funds. But Bonn makes clear it is looking for reductions "in several stages, starting in 2000".

The paper also takes a tough line on "structural assistance" for poor areas, tabling one option which would limit spending to 173bn euros over the period, compared with the European Commission plan for 218bn euros. It wants support for favoured areas which no longer qualify phased out more quickly than the Commission plans: four years for areas which used to qualify as the most deprived.

It adds that, for regions no longer eligible, "phasing-out must be limited in extent". It suggests it should "begin in all cases in 2000 and would last for a shorter duration than proposed by the Commission", with help being "degressive in equal annual steps".

On cohesion funding it argues that if states that qualify for grants are in the eurozone, "participation in the single currency cannot be totally overlooked when considering the situation of countries benefiting from the cohesion fund".

That reflects a view, prevalent in Bonn, that nations such as Spain should not be able to argue that their economy is strong enough to share a currency with Germany yet also needs big subsidies.

■ Much of central Brussels

will resemble a war zone today as razor wire, water cannon and police are deployed to prevent 30,000 farmers laying siege to the EU headquarters.

The farmers are expected to bring the city to a standstill in their protest over CAP reforms. Much of Brussels' European quarter was boarded up yesterday after police distributed leaflets urging shops and offices to close. Householders were advised to stay in, to board up windows and to remove anything that could be used as a weapon or a missile.

A grocer's near the EU headquarters was instructed to black out euro symbols on his shopfront which, it was feared, might inflame passions even more.

Leading article.
Review, page 3

Kafkaesque world of a French social experiment

FRANCE IS in the midst of a great social experiment - the mandatory reduction of working hours - which may or may not point the way forward for all industrialised societies in the 21st century.

The concept is simple: if we all work less, there will be more jobs for all. The implications are kafkaesque. How do you reduce a train ticket inspector's weekly hours to 35 when he officially works 39 but actually only works 25? How do you enforce such a law at a time of increasing global competition, without handicapping business and, in the long term, losing jobs?

Of all the policies pushed by Lionel Jospin's centre-left coalition government, the 35-hour week was the one which was to mark Jospinism from the other brands of remodelled centre-leftism now on offer (Clintonism, Blairism and Schröderism). It was also the policy which was to make or break the career of its main sponsor, the employment minister Martine Aubry (the daughter of Jacques Delors).

Eight months after the introduction of the first, voluntary, phase of the reform, the results have been confusing and perverse. In the area in which Ms Aubry hoped to have most impact - the creation of jobs - the effects have been minimal. Even on the most optimistic reading of the figures, 21,000 jobs have been created, with another 40,000 expected this year. Ms Aubry had spoken of generating 500,000, even 600,000 jobs. Even after the law is fully, and compulsorily applied, from the end of this year, her de-

BY JOHN LICHFIELD
in Paris

partment now estimates unofficially that a more realistic target would be 100,000 to 200,000 jobs over three or four years.

(To put that in context, the 1997-8 French economic boom, now fading, created 300,000 jobs during last year alone.)

On the other hand, the law, detested and fiercely opposed by most French employers, has proved an unexpected benefit to those companies willing, and clever enough, to make use of the small print. The framework law allows companies to negotiate annual or monthly, rather than weekly, working patterns. It recommends that employees should not lose take-home pay or pay rises but gives no guarantees.

In practice, many of the 2,000 agreements negotiated so far have forced the employees to accept a pay freeze for up to three years. In return for working an average of four hours less each week, the employees have frequently accepted more flexible, monthly or annual, working patterns and the abolition of long-held privileges such as coffee and shower-breaks. In the legendarily frozen world of French working practices, this represents a considerable advance, for employers (not in the direction the government promised).

The reduced social charges offered to businesses to take on more workers in return for shorter working hours have been grabbed in four out of 10 cases by companies that cheerfully admit that they were plan-



Lionel Jospin, the French Prime Minister, meets a worker at a glass factory near Paris where a shorter, 35-hour, working week will lead to 80 new jobs. Joel Rabine/AP

ning to expand in any case. The cost of each job created so far is estimated at \$5,000; since the subsidies are payable, in reducing amounts, over five years, the final cost of each job will be around \$25,000. As the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development cheerfully pointed out, it might have made more sense - and created more jobs - if the government had invested its cash in cutting business taxes for everyone.

A further can of worms - the wholesale application of the 35-hour week to the public sector - remains to be opened. A report last week showed that tens of thousands of railway

workers, although nominally on a 39-hour week, work as little as 25 to 29 hours a week. An earlier report showed that many civil servants work only 31 to 34 hours a week. Public service unions are expecting the four hours reduction to apply, pro rata, to their members; they are also demanding the creation of new public sector jobs - the last thing the French economy needs.

Officials at the employment ministry insist that the great experiment will be a success, but it may take seven years before the full benefits are seen. The problem is that Ms Aubry does not have seven years. Her work will be judged in the presiden-

tial election, three years from now. As the French economy slows, the failure of the 35-hour week to generate large numbers of instant jobs will become even more apparent.

And yet, in one sense, the employment officials may be right. Employment experts say that the 35-hour law is transforming the French social landscape.

By breaking down entrenched and ossified patterns of labour, and by freezing salaries, it could help French business to become more competitive in the long run. This - at huge, short-term cost to the public purse - may be its great, and accidental, legacy.

IS THE 35-HOUR WEEK A WINNER?

The postal worker

Since October, Francoise Fournier, a 36-year-old mother of three, has been delivering the post for one day less each week and taking home the same pay. Every six weeks, she is guaranteed a three day weekend. "I see my children a bit more," she said. "I can organise trips with them, help them with their homework. It's one day less that I have to pay for a babysitter and the school canteen." Four extra people have

been hired to do the rounds from her postal depot at L'Isle-Adam in the Parisian suburbs. The complete reorganisation of work schedules, with more flexible working hours, means that customers are getting a better service than before, at minimal extra cost to La Poste. Everybody seems to win.

The bus driver

Michel is a 42-year-old bus driver in Poitiers. He, too, works a day less most weeks

for the same pay but he is not a happy man. "Before, I used to get a break half way through my shift and grab a sandwich or a coffee. Now I have to drive seven hours in a row. By the end of the week, I can feel my concentration ebbing away." With the help of government subsidies, the Poitiers bus company has taken on a few extra drivers but not as many as the unions had hoped. Nobody seems to have won very much.

Eiffel Tower going underground

THE EIFFEL TOWER is to be enlarged. Downwards.

Inspired by the commercial success of the underground access to the Louvre, the city of Paris is planning a subterranean gallery of shops, restaurants and ticket-booths below the tower. The complex will also include a museum, a creche, a car park and offices.

Although the tower has

BY JOHN LICHFIELD

more paying visitors than any other monument in the world - 3,600,000 tickets were sold last year or an average of 10,000 a day - its cramped access points and outdoor ticket booths have been substantially unchanged for more than a century.

The city and the tower's management company want

to provide somewhere for tourists to queue out of the wind and rain. They also want to provide them with more opportunities to spend money.

Despite its popularity, the tower has a relatively modest turnover of \$30m a year and makes an annual profit of \$3m.

Work is expected to begin at the end of next year, to avoid clashing with millennium cele-

brations, and be completed by the middle of 2003.

The creation of an underground access and shopping gallery at the Louvre, topped by a glass pyramid to provide natural light, has led to a sharp increase in the number of visitors. Tenders for architects plans for a matching access to the Eiffel Tower will be invited in the next few weeks.

A GROUP representing 500,000 Poles forced into slave labour by the Nazis said yesterday that it will sue the German government and some companies if they do not get satisfactory compensation offers soon.

The Association of Poles Injured by the Third Reich wants Germany to declare "as soon as possible" which companies will contribute to a compensation

fund being set up in response to United States lawsuits and how much money will be available for Poles, said Karol Gawlowski, the group's deputy leader.

He said the information should be available well before a 13 May deadline for claiming compensation in German courts for damages, so his group can file lawsuits if the offers are lacking.

On Tuesday, 12 of Germany's

largest companies pledged to set up a fund to pay reparations to slave labourers, starting on 1 September.

The fund could total as much as \$4.6bn (£2.9bn), according to Michael Witt, a German lawyer for former slave workers and their descendants.

Mr Gawlowski said his group wanted Poles to get the same amount of compensation as

Americans and Israelis. He said the minimum would be 10,000 German marks (£3,486) for each of the 500,000 surviving slave labourers and Second World War concentration camp inmates.

"If [Germany's] decision is positive, we will accept it, but if Poles are treated worse than other nationals, then we will use other ways, including lawsuits," he said. (AP)



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Pity the nation that is paralysed by corruption

HAVE YOU heard the one about the former Lebanese minister who was sent three army trucks and told to fill them up with \$3m (£1.8m) worth of ill-gotten carpets, furniture and jewellery if he wished to avoid prosecution for accepting bribes? Or the one about the minister who paid exorbitant fees to a construction company for a new highway roundabout as part of a deal to share the favours of the company manager's wife? Or about the minister with an import licence for fire extinguishers who demanded legislation forcing every motorist in Lebanon to carry a fire extinguisher?

Stewed in corruption Lebanon has always been. The Lebanese prefer to use the word "facilitate" for "bribe". Here, you "facilitate" someone to help you, to "minimise the inconvenience", as Thomas Cromwell would say.

Local journalists were used to collecting hundred dollar bills from their favourite minister - they fought like jackals to travel on his overseas state

CITY LIFE BEIRUT

visits - and the minister was always given favourable reviews. But fraud had reached such epic proportions in Lebanon's post-war government that when the former army commander General Emile Lahoud became president last year - with the infinitely honest Salim al-Hoss as his prime minister - he declared war on corruption.

And those same Lebanese who had welcomed the old government of billionaire Rafiq Hariri, sat back to enjoy the embarrassment of their former masters.

"Pity the nation," Kahili Gibran wrote, "that welcomes its new ruler with trumpets and farewells him with hootings, only to welcome another with trumpets again."

Well, the hootings began right away. Lorryloads of official documents were said to have been secretly removed from the Ministry of Finance.

A former minister, Fouad Siniora, was said to have fled the country - the story was untrue but Lebanese journalists (yes, those same reporters who liked all those hundred dollar bills) gave it front page treatment. Security agents pounced on Ogero, the public telephone company created by Hariri, "to prevent the removal of official documents".

Then came the body-blow from Michel al-Murr, the Interior Minister and one of the only cabinet holders to keep his office. He called together parliament members and municipal leaders to announce - and this was whistle-blowing on a grand scale - that \$327m had disappeared from local government funds. Worse still, the money had come from the IMF. But 24 hours later, Mr Murr confessed it was all a mistake; the accounts had not been read correctly and the cash was all there. Then the hootings began.

The Druze leader, Walid Jumblatt, a minister in the old Hariri cabinet and a very big



New anti-corruption rules are tying up investors in the roads in red tape

hooter, claimed that the new government faced "a total loss of credibility", and that Murr should resign, pointing out - damagingly - that Murr "is the in-law of the president... the credibility of the president is at stake."

Murr did not resign. His son is married to President Lahoud's daughter. Lahoud hit back. Unintentional mistakes by the new government, he said, were the fault of the previous administration which was bankrolling

media campaigns against the Hoss cabinet. Hariri has indeed been busy. He not only controls the Future TV station in Lebanon but has been buying up the best journalists in town to work for a new daily paper he plans to

launch in April called *Mustaqbal* (Future). Since he already runs the Al-Sharq radio station, the former prime minister is shaping up to become a Lebanese Rupert Murdoch.

In his administration, he and his fellow ministers did manage to close down a number of television stations - although, oddly, they didn't touch Future or a company owned by the speaker of parliament or a television station run by another of Murr's sons. *Mustaqbal* will surely contain quite a lot of hooting.

The civil service has meanwhile been hacked back by the corruption-seekers. Fifty top officials were told to resign, one accused of chairing 60 committees (officials can get paid according to the number of committees they run).

Now the new Finance Minister, George Corm, is saying that the Hariri government owed money to private hospitals - around \$123m, according to Fawzi Admi, the president of the Hospital Owners Association. More hootings.

Corm announced 1,000 extra agents to stop tax cheats. Less hootings. Fouad Siniora attacked Murr. Murr is now taking libel action against Siniora. More hootings.

But back at the bank - my own little local bank off Hamra street - there is no hooting at all. About 75 per cent of government revenues (around \$1.9bn) goes to service the public debt. Last year, the government issued \$1.35bn in treasury bills to cover the debt.

New rules to prevent bribery and corruption are tangling up legitimate investors in massive amounts of red tape. Highway construction and building projects have suddenly petered out.

"Paralysis," is how a visiting Lebanese banker described the place when he called me the other day.

And the message? That honest men will save Lebanon from itself? Or that a certain measure of corruption is needed to move the economy? Stand by for more hootings.

ROBERT FISK

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Slain Iraq cleric is buried in haste

By PATRICK COCKBURN
in Washington

THE BODY of Ayatollah Mohammed Sadeq al-Sadr, the most popular leader of the Shia Muslims of Iraq, was hastily buried on Saturday as the Iraqi government tried to stifle further protests over his assassination. In Baghdad, security forces were reported to have killed or wounded several demonstrators.

Ayatollah al-Sadr, shot dead with his two sons in the holy city of Najaf at the end of last week, is the third spiritual leader of the Shia faith, to which 55 per cent of Iraqis belong, to be assassinated in Iraq in the past year.

Supporters of the murdered cleric say they were the victims of government death squads.

The Iraqi Ministry of Information claimed Ayatollah al-Sadr was killed by people, some of whom had been arrested, wanting to "sow sedition among the Iraqi people".

But in the past, none of the killers of the Shia clerics have been convicted, despite the holy cities of Najaf, Kerbala and Kufa being the most heavily policed in Iraq.

The exact circumstances of the assassination on Friday are not known. Relatives are unable to speak openly on the phone from Najaf, a city on the Euphrates 100 miles southwest of Baghdad, and military units have surrounded the area to prevent mourners gathering.

Ayatollah al-Sadr, appointed by the government as religious leader of the Shia in 1992, has been an increasingly vocal critic of Saddam Hussein's policies in recent months.

Although he never mentioned the Iraqi leader by name, he distanced himself from the government to which he had once been close. He had strong support among the Shia youth, hundreds of whom usually accompanied him to protect him from attack.

He was also revered by many of the Shia tribal leaders, whom he asked to implement Islamic law. If they agreed to do so he appointed them Islamic leaders of their tribe. He had representatives in all the main Shia cities and towns and even appointed judges to adjudicate tribal disputes asking people to go to them rather than government courts.

The government clearly con-

sidered Ayatollah al-Sadr and his following a serious threat. He gathered large crowds of worshippers in Kufa last year when he called on people to attend mass prayer.

In a confrontation with the government on 5 December, Ayatollah al-Sadr asked Muslims to walk to the shrine of the Shia martyr Imam Hussein in Kerbala. He only called off the march when the government massed troops, security men and armed members of the ruling Baath party around the city.

The Iraqi government has shown itself much more worried by dissent within the Shia clergy, with their wide popular appeal, than by the Iraqi opposition based abroad. In 1991, after the Gulf War the Shia heartlands of southern Iraq rose up in a rebellion which came close to overthrowing Saddam.

Ayatollah al-Sadr was the cousin of a Shia religious leader executed by Saddam along with his sister in 1980.



Ayatollah al-Sadr: Critic of Saddam's policies

On 21 April last year, Ayatollah Murtada Borujerdi was shot dead by an assassin as he walked home from prayers in the shrine tomb of Imam Ali.

Two months later, on 18 June, the son of Ayatollah Mirza Ali al-Gharavi, another spiritual leader, was worried that his father had not returned from praying in Kerbala, 60 miles to the north of Najaf. When he drove to look for him he found his body in a car, along with several relatives, riddled with bullets.

As with Ayatollah al-Sadr, the government insisted that the bodies be buried immediately. An Iraqi who followed the case said: "The police were not interested in an autopsy, blood samples, investigating the time of death or anything else."

ANDREAS WHITTAM SMITH

Labour's spin-doctoring is an acknowledgement of the sheer power of the press

IN THE MONDAY REVIEW PAGE 4

BRIEFING

Pay rises on a downward trend

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FSA names new ombudsman

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BRIEFING

Pay rises on a downward trend

PAY SETTLEMENTS are falling significantly across the economy, according to the latest survey from the Confederation of British Industry. Manufacturing settlements averaged 3 per cent between November and January, compared with 3.5 per cent in the three months to October, while in the service sector pay settlements averaged 3.7 per cent, compared with 4.4 per cent in the previous three months.

FSA names new ombudsman

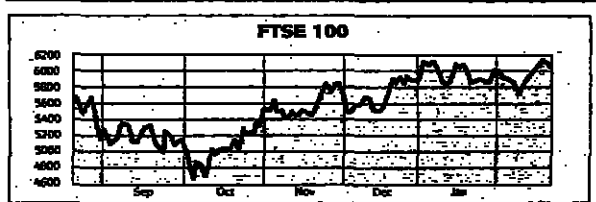


THE Financial Services Authority has named Andrew Whitman Smith (left), president of the British Board of Film Classification and founder of The Independent, as the chairman of the board for the City's new single ombudsman scheme. The board, which will oversee the integration of eight financial services ombudsmen as well as run the single scheme, also includes Michael Barnes, formerly the Legal Services Ombudsman; Pearson director Maggie Lee; Oonagh McDonald, director of the investors' compensation scheme and John Rawlings, Skipton building society's vice-chairman.

Lucas bidder slims management

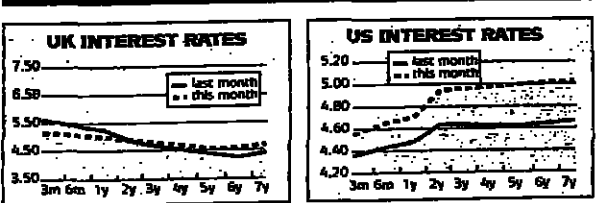
TRW, the American engineering group bidding \$6.6bn for LucasVarity, is eliminating the position of president and chief operating officer in anticipation of the integration of the British autoparts group. TRW said yesterday that the president and chief operating officer Peter Hellman would leave at the end of the month, and TRW's major businesses would now report directly to chairman and chief executive officer Joseph Gorman. Under TRW's offer, LucasVarity's chief executive Victor Rice would become vice chairman at TRW.

STOCK MARKETS



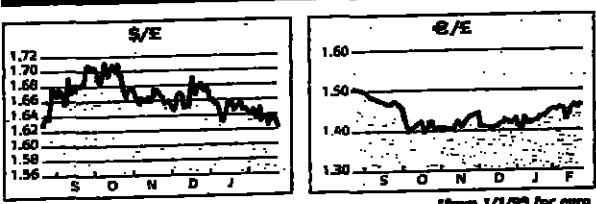
Index	Close	High	Low	Open	High	Low	Open
FTSE 100	6031.20	6050.50	6015.6	5999.2	6048.2	6000.0	5999.2
FTSE 250	5173.10	5190.00	5160.0	5150.0	5180.0	5140.0	5150.0
FTSE 350	2859.50	2870.00	2850.0	2840.0	2860.0	2830.0	2840.0
FTSE All Share	2768.10	2780.00	2760.0	2750.0	2770.0	2740.0	2750.0
FTSE SmallCap	2248.10	2260.00	2240.0	2230.0	2250.0	2220.0	2230.0
FTSE Fledgling	1227.50	1240.00	1220.0	1210.0	1230.0	1200.0	1210.0
FTSE AIM	820.40	830.00	810.0	800.0	820.0	790.0	800.0
FTSE Europe 100	2766.05	2780.00	2760.0	2750.0	2770.0	2740.0	2750.0
FTSE Europe 300	1204.50	1210.00	1200.0	1190.0	1200.0	1180.0	1190.0
Dow Jones	9339.55	9350.00	9330.0	9320.0	9340.0	9310.0	9320.0
Nikkei	14098.04	14150.00	14050.0	14000.0	14100.0	13950.0	14000.0
Hang Seng	9254.72	9270.00	9240.0	9230.0	9260.0	9220.0	9230.0
Dax	4845.15	4860.00	4840.0	4830.0	4850.0	4820.0	4830.0
S&P 500	1239.16	1245.00	1235.0	1230.0	1240.0	1225.0	1230.0
Nasdaq	2283.44	2290.00	2280.0	2270.0	2285.0	2265.0	2270.0
Toronto 300	6408.50	6420.00	6400.0	6390.0	6410.0	6380.0	6390.0
Brazil Bovespa	9013.15	9030.00	9000.0	8990.0	9020.0	8970.0	8980.0
Belgium BeX20	3416.50	3430.00	3410.0	3400.0	3420.0	3390.0	3400.0
Amsterdam AEX	512.63	515.00	512.00	510.00	514.00	509.00	510.00
France CAC 40	5139.48	5160.00	5130.0	5120.0	5150.0	5110.0	5120.0
Milan MIB30	34384.00	34500.00	34300.0	34200.0	34400.0	34100.0	34200.0
Madrid IBS 35	9840.90	9860.00	9830.0	9810.0	9850.0	9800.0	9810.0
Irish Overall	5239.53	5250.00	5230.0	5220.0	5240.0	5210.0	5220.0
S Korea Comp	522.18	525.00	522.00	520.00	524.00	519.00	520.00
Australia ASX	2924.30	2940.00	2920.0	2910.0	2930.0	2900.0	2910.0

INTEREST RATES



Index	3 month	6 month	1 year	2 year	3 year	5 year	10 year	Long bond	Yr chg
UK	5.44	5.29	5.29	5.29	5.29	5.29	5.29	5.29	-1.53
US	5.00	4.75	4.75	4.75	4.75	4.75	4.75	4.75	-0.47
Japan	0.28	0.28	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	-0.45
Germany	3.08	3.08	3.03	3.03	3.03	3.03	3.03	3.03	-0.70

CURRENCIES



Index	3 month	6 month	1 year	2 year	3 year	5 year	10 year	Long bond	Yr chg
Pound	1.6215	1.6330	1.6369	1.6369	1.6369	1.6369	1.6369	1.6369	0.6109
Dollar	1.4639	1.4730	1.4739	1.4739	1.4739	1.4739	1.4739	1.4739	1.1665
Yen	196.45	196.15	196.08	196.08	196.08	196.08	196.08	196.08	125.91
E index	101.90	101.70	101.80	101.80	101.80	101.80	101.80	101.80	108.70

OTHER INDICATORS

Index	3 month	6 month	1 year	2 year	3 year	5 year	10 year	Long bond	Yr chg
Brent Oil (\$)	10.08	10.10	10.10	10.10	10.10	10.10	10.10	10.10	13.72
Gold (\$)	288.25	288.25	288.25	288.25	288.25	288.25	288.25	288.25	298.85
Silver (\$)	5.60	5.60	5.60	5.60	5.60	5.60	5.60	5.60	6.69

TOURIST RATES

Index	3 month	6 month	1 year	2 year	3 year	5 year	10 year	Long bond	Yr chg
Australia (\$)	2.4631	2.4631	2.4631	2.4631	2.4631	2.4631	2.4631	2.4631	14.72
Austria (schilling)	19.47	19.47	19.47	19.47	19.47	19.47	19.47	19.47	3.1212
Belgium (francs)	57.25	57.25	57.25	57.25	57.25	57.25	57.25	57.25	2.8906
Canada (\$)	2.3572	2.3572	2.3572	2.3572	2.3572	2.3572	2.3572	2.3572	12.36
Cyprus (pounds)	0.8185	0.8185	0.8185	0.8185	0.8185	0.8185	0.8185	0.8185	282.77
Denmark (kroner)	10.60	10.60	10.60	10.60	10.60	10.60	10.60	10.60	5.9510
Finland (markka)	8.4952	8.4952	8.4952	8.4952	8.4952	8.4952	8.4952	8.4952	2.6617
France (francs)	9.3049	9.3049	9.3049	9.3049	9.3049	9.3049	9.3049	9.3049	9.7846
Germany (marks)	2.7831	2.7831	2.7831	2.7831	2.7831	2.7831	2.7831	2.7831	235.65
Greece (drachma)	457.47	457.47	457.47	457.47	457.47	457.47	457.47	457.47	12.69
Hong Kong (\$)	12.21	12.21	12.21	12.21	12.21	12.21	12.21	12.21	2.2746
Ireland (pounds)	1.1146	1.1146	1.1146	1.1146	1.1146	1.1146	1.1146	1.1146	56.19
India (rupees)	62.20	62.20	62.20	62.20	62.20	62.20	62.20	62.20	541.532
Israel (shekels)	6.1341	6.1341	6.1341	6.1341	6.1341	6.1341	6.1341	6.1341	1.5668
Italy (lira)	2.757	2.757	2.757	2.757	2.757	2.757	2.757	2.757	
Japan (yen)	191.78	191.78	191.78	191.78	191.78	191.78	191.78	191.78	
Malaysia (ringgits)	5.9342	5.9342	5.9342	5.9342	5.9342	5.9342	5.9342	5.9342	
Malta (lira)	0.6109	0.6109	0.6109	0.6109	0.6109	0.6109	0.6109	0.6109	

BUSINESS

Nomura placates investors as William Hill float is scrapped

BY JOHN WILLCOCK

NOMURA INTERNATIONAL has moved to placate more than 90,000 private investors who subscribed for shares in the float of the William Hill betting shops chain, which was abandoned on Saturday. The Japanese bank decided to sell the group to venture capital companies CVC Capital Partners and Cinven for £825m instead.

Yesterday's move is unlikely to defuse a City row over why Guy Hands, head of Nomura's principal finance business, accepted the venture capital group's offer of £825m for William Hill, after having rejected the same offer from the same two venture capital companies at the turn of the year.

Defenders pointed out that he still made a profit of well over £100m for Nomura, and that the bank was under "massive pressure" from the City not to simply pull the float, one of the options it was considering last week.

Warburg Dillon Read's advice to go ahead with the float, only to see it derailed last week by institutional opposition to the price, is also likely to be questioned.

The float was more than three times subscribed, but last week two key institutions, Deutsche Morgan Grenfell and Phillips & Drew, pulled out, apparently unhappy at Nomura's pricing of the deal.

Some said this proved that the City is not interested in any flotations below £1bn. Others suggested it reflected the lack of growth prospects at William Hill. Britain's second largest betting chain after Ladbrokes.

Hands under fire for last-minute move

BY ANDREW GARFIELD
Financial Editor

THE LAST MINUTE decision to pull the William Hill float has heightened Nomura's disarray following a series of embarrassing setbacks and raises the question of how long it will be able to give its support to Guy Hands.

City sources say that Mr Hands was in a hurry to sell William Hill because he had orders from head office in Tokyo to get the business off Nomura's books by 31 March, the first year end. Nomura denied this yesterday. Sources close to the company said: "There was no pressure from Tokyo to do the deal."

The Nomura chief executive, Junichi Ujii, following the 207bn yen of losses sustained by the firm's overseas businesses in the first half of last year.

Mr Ujii, they say, is losing the battle to maintain Nomura's position as a force in world securities markets, in favour of those within the firm who believe that having been badly stung in the US mortgage-backed securities market, and in Russia last year, it is time for the firm to retrench and concentrate on salvaging what it can at home.

Insiders say that Tokyo last year vetoed a plan by Mr Hands to raise his own pot of money from institutions to fund his deals without recourse to Nomura. Head office has also recently cut back the capital it is making available to fund Mr Hands' activities, according to sources.

Last week Mr Ujii's position was further undermined by news that Japan's financial services authority had begun investigating events last year at Nomura's US operations.



Roberto Colaninno, Olivetti managing director, who warned Telecom Italia to accept its \$58bn hostile bid. EPA

Olivetti threat to Telecom Italia

BY JOHN WILLCOCK

THE HEAD of Olivetti, the Italian telecommunications group, delivered a veiled warning yesterday to its bid target Telecom Italia "that it could fall into foreign hands" unless it accepted Olivetti's \$58bn hostile bid.

Telecom Italia, the denationalised phone monopoly, is five times the size of Olivetti, and the deal would be the biggest takeover in Europe.

As a precursor to the proposed deal, Mannesmann, the German telecoms group, yesterday agreed to buy Olivetti's stakes in mobile phone operator Omnitel and fixed-line phone firm Infostrada for \$8.48bn. The deal will only go through if the Telecom Italia bid succeeds.

The purchase would give Mannesmann a controlling 55 per cent interest in Omnitel. Pronto Italia, which has about 30 per cent of the Italian mobile phone market and is one of the most profitable carriers in the world.

It would also increase Mannesmann's stake in Infostrada to 100 per cent from 80 per cent. Olivetti's bid is the brainchild of Roberto Colaninno, the 55-year-old managing director whose Bell Consortium owns 13 per cent of the telecoms group. Mr Colaninno has turned Olivetti from loss to profit since taking over three years ago. It no longer makes typewriters or computers.

Yesterday Antonio Tesone, chairman of Olivetti, took a dig at the cluster of banks, insurance firms and the powerful Agnelli family which make up Telecom's shareholder "hard core", saying its prey lacked determined control and was vulnerable to any "foreign offensive".

M&S shake-up may lead to sale of US interests

BY JANE HUGHES

MARKS & SPENCER has denied reports that it is seeking buyers for its US interests. Brooks Brothers clothing and Kings supermarket chain, whose futures are being considered as part of a major strategic review.

However, the possibility of a sale in the next few months has not been ruled out as M&S attempts to consolidate its business after a dramatic fall in profits over the last year.

"We absolutely deny we are in the process of selling Brooks Brothers and Kings but no area of the business is sacrosanct in the review," said a spokeswoman. "It could lead to any

thing from us opening new Brooks Brothers stores in London, through to selling off the business."

Last week the retailer's new chief executive, Peter Salisbury, told city analysts that the "potential and relevance" of the two chains would be examined. A decision on their future could be decided ahead of the announcement of the review results in June.

The acquisition of the Brooks Brothers chain in 1988 is considered one of M&S's biggest strategic mistakes. Profits at the 191-store chain improved when it diversified from conservative menswear into women's clothing and accessories but although a combined sale of the two businesses could raise £375m, that is still less than M&S paid for Brooks Brothers alone.

Trinity sparks union row over recognition

BY BARRIE CLEMENT
Labour Editor

TRINITY, Britain's largest regional newspaper group and one of two companies bidding for the Labour-supporting Mirror Group Newspapers, has caused a furious row between unions as part of an attempt to pre-empt impending employment legislation.

The management at Trinity's Western Mail & Echo subsidiary in Cardiff is planning to offer an exclusive recognition deal to a union with no journalists, printers, or newspaper advertising staff in their membership.

The group believes it could be forced to recognise a union when the Employment Relations Bill becomes law and its Cardiff operation could form a test case for the whole industry.

Originally management invited the Manufacturing Science Finance Union and the Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union to make presentations to its joint company forum, but extended the invitation after the intervention of John Monks, general secretary of the Trades Union Council.

Representatives of the National Union of Journalists, which claims 45 per cent membership among Western Mail & Echo editorial staff, and the GPMU print union have been added to the list, but it is thought that the company is determined to make a break with the past.

In a letter to John Foster, NUJ general secretary, Mark Hayson, managing director of the company, said the group's elected forum thought it would be helpful to explore the possibility of recognition "with unions not traditionally associated with our industry".

Under the new employment act, businesses will be forced to recognise a union where at least 40 per cent of their workforce vote for it. Western Mail management wants to ensure that only one union wins a bargaining agreement and that it approves of the organisation concerned.

Where a union can prove 50 per cent membership or more recognition would normally be automatic, provided there was no disagreement over the coverage of the bargaining unit. The NUJ has started a recruitment campaign to ensure that over half the journalists are members.

Mr Foster argues that the company is trying to "by-pass" the legislation and has warned other unions not to encroach on the NUJ's territory. He points out that the journalists' union has more members at the company than any other organisation.

He insists the NUJ is not prepared to take part in a "beauty contest" to see which union meets with management's approval. Mr Hayson insists, however, that the initiative came from the elected company forum.

In a statement last night Mr Hayson insisted the invitation to the MSF and the AEEU had been extended by the elected forum because it wanted to ensure that any bargaining structure was not fragmented. The forum wanted to explore the benefits or otherwise of a single union agreement. It also wanted to preserve "the unity of approach and purpose that had served the company so well over the last six years".

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News Analysis: Electra bid row has crystallised divisions in industry which City regards as needing radical overhaul

Struggle begins for future of trusts

WHEN THE 37-year-old head of an industry trade association suggests in print that a company in his own industry, and a member of the association to boot, "caused its own downfall", then it's not surprising that the 66-year-old chairman of the company concerned should react angrily.

Michael Stoddart, chairman of Electra Investment Trust, says he is "furious" with Daniel Godfrey after the youthful director general of the Association of Investment Trust Companies (AITC) was quoted in the *Financial Times* as blaming Electra for "failing to market themselves to private investors".

BY JOHN WILLCOCK

which is why they are now in this situation".

He says of the article: "Mr Godfrey has caused me a huge amount of embarrassment by saying it was our own fault."

"I was meant to have retired last Wednesday," Mr Stoddart says, adding that he is reluctant to hand over to his successor Brian Williamson, chairman of Life, while the present row rumbles on.

Although the Electra chairman insists that "I'm not having a battle with the AITC," the damage has been done. The row has crystallised the divisions in



Michael Stoddart (left), chairman of Electra Investment Trust, is 'furious' with Daniel Godfrey, director of the AITC, who was quoted as accusing Electra of 'failing to market themselves to private investors'.



an industry which many regard as at best needing radical overhaul and at worst an anachronistic hangover from Empire.

The "situation" which the deliberately provocative Mr Godfrey was referring to is 31's hostile bid for Electra at 70p a share, valuing it at £1.2bn.

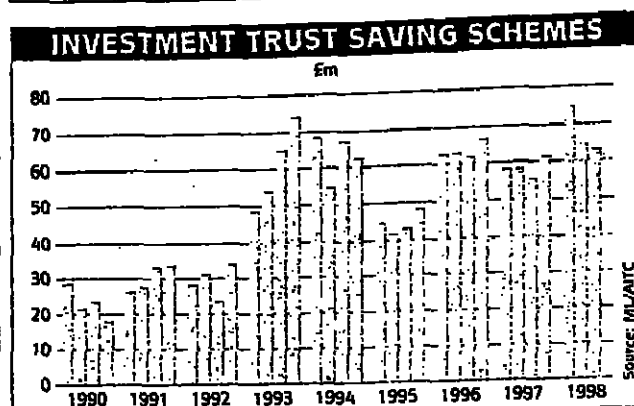
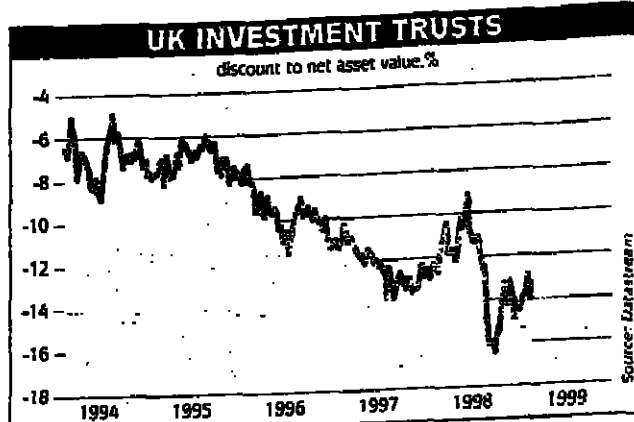
Last Wednesday Electra's board rejected the bid and as an alternative launched a buyback of 40 per cent of its shares at approximately its current net asset value (NAV). The trust would then be wound up over the next five years.

The reason that investment trusts have become so unpopular in the Square Mile is that their shares seem to trade at an ever bigger discount to NAV as the years go by.

In 1994 the average discount for UK investment trusts stood at around 3 per cent. This has ballooned to 16 per cent today, provoking people like Mr Godfrey to urge radical action.

The young Turk of the AITC declares: "There are two main solutions: giving shareholders their money back, through a buy-back or restructuring, or finding new buyers for investment trusts."

There is at least one thing Mr Godfrey and Mr Stoddart agree on: how investment



trusts have come to this pass. As Mr Stoddart puts it: "Investment trusts grew up in the early part of the 20th century, when institutions were a lot smaller than they are today."

"They wouldn't have, say, their own operations in North America or Japan. In those days investment trusts saved institutions from having their own overseas departments."

"Now institutions are bigger and they do their own investing around the world. So they don't need investment trusts in the same way."

Investment trusts have the added bonus of giving retail investors a route into venture capital, which they wouldn't have otherwise, Mr Stoddart adds.

Mr Godfrey and Mr Stoddart are also at one in complaining that many institutions are unsupportive shareholders. "They only stay in because they are trapped by the big discounts and capital gains tax liabilities," says Mr Godfrey. As soon as the discounts narrow they sell out - sending discounts back up again.

There are a few exceptions to this rule. Fleming, where Mr Godfrey used to be marketing director, has launched the Fleming Claverhouse trust for retail investors, which actually trades at a premium at the moment - 0.89 per cent.

Part of Mr Godfrey's solution for the £61bn investment trust industry is to shift between £7.5bn and £20bn of stock from institutional shareholders to retail investors over the next few years.

"Too many institutional shareholders are not there for the long term," he says. "They just feel trapped by discounts and capital gains."

Such a move would have a big impact on Electra, where institutions represent 85 per cent of all shareholders.

Mr Stoddart is sensitive to the charge that Electra hasn't done enough to encourage the small investor. "We have just

started a savings scheme," he says, a trend which has taken off in recent years (see chart) but which Mr Godfrey believes still has a long way to go.

As is the way of things, Mr Godfrey reacted to the "caused own downfall" headline by writing a letter to the *Financial Times* saying that he never said such a thing. He also denies that his remarks were comments on a bid battle.

He was merely responding to comments by Mr Stoddart on the investment industry as a whole, he said.

And Mr Stoddart also protested that he hadn't said that the "whole investment trust industry was under siege", only that "some" parts were.

Not everyone is gloomy about the outlook. Philip Middleton, a top-rated investment trust analyst at Merrill Lynch, is upbeat about prospects for the sector.

Mr Middleton thinks that share buybacks will continue until discounts narrow, and notes that Scottish Eastern has recently proposed to hand back £1bn to investors.

Mr Middleton says: "The advent of LISAs (Lifetime Individual Savings Accounts) could well be good news for the sector. This has the potential to provide a ready-made answer to the sector's search for a mass-market pensions product."

Mr Middleton adds: "Overall, value remains good... whilst recent interest rate cuts will boost demand."

Meanwhile, Mr Stoddart remains robust in his defence of Electra. "We floated 23 years ago this month, at the equivalent of 29p a share, and now we're trading at 68p, which isn't a bad rate of return. We are totally dedicated to shareholder value."

Whether this represents an epitaph or a brave new beginning will depend both on the industry's willingness to change and the City's patience while it does so.



Encourage letters of complaint and you'll hang on to 10% more of your customers.

Shocking, isn't it? But it actually makes very good business sense. The fact is we all like a good moan now and again. And customers are no exception. Unfortunately they tend to be a little reticent, so before you realise there's a problem they've walked away. The solution can be as simple as a

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FEEDBACK



WHAT THE PAPERS SAID

A ROUND-UP OF SUNDAY BUSINESS STORIES

THE INDEPENDENT

■ Speculation is growing that David Montgomery, the former chief executive of Mirror Group, may stage a dramatic return to the newspaper with a takeover bid, possibly with American financial backing. Mr Montgomery played down the rumours last week.

The Observer

■ Monsanto obtained copies of confidential European Commission documents ahead of a meeting in 1998 which approved milk from cattle treated with its bovine growth hormone (BST), according to Canadian government documents. The US biotech giant is also under fire in America, where it is pursuing farmers through the courts for not paying licence fees on its seeds.

The Sunday Telegraph

■ The Government is set to announce a flotation of a 49 per cent stake in British Nuclear Fuels (BNFL) within the next month, although the sale may raise less than the expected £1.5bn as institutions use new energy regulations to argue for a lower price.

SUNDAY BUSINESS

■ A global price war could wipe out profits at Weetabix,

the breakfast cereal maker,

according to the Oxf-listed company's annual report which will be sent out to shareholders this week.

■ Unilever is expected to use its £6bn cash pile to launch a £1.5bn-£2bn share buyback when the Anglo-Dutch consumer giant announces its full-year figures on Tuesday.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

■ Laura Ashley may be taken private by its 40 per cent shareholder Malaysian United Industries in a bid to radically restructure the ailing fashion retailer.

However, Malaysian curbs on overseas investment could prevent any takeover move in the immediate future.

The Mail

■ The £3bn privatisation of British Nuclear Fuels (BNFL) could be delayed by row between the Department of Trade and Industry and the KPMG team, which has been looking into the options for selling off BNFL.

KPMG's final report is expected to recommend a flotation, which could prompt the Government to request further studies and may mean any proceeds from the sell-off might not reach the Treasury before the next general election.

Polic

Brown W

Confidence

68.
2.1

The sheriff of Dulwich Village County

"In a police interview," said the prosecuting counsel at a recent murder trial in Warwick, "the defendant said he felt as if he were in a movie like the Terminator, some sort of Arnold Schwarzenegger on the streets of Leamington Spa. The video shows scenes in which the character of the Terminator drives a truck at other vehicles which get in his way. (The man) told police he felt he had been 'locked into the Terminator mode'."

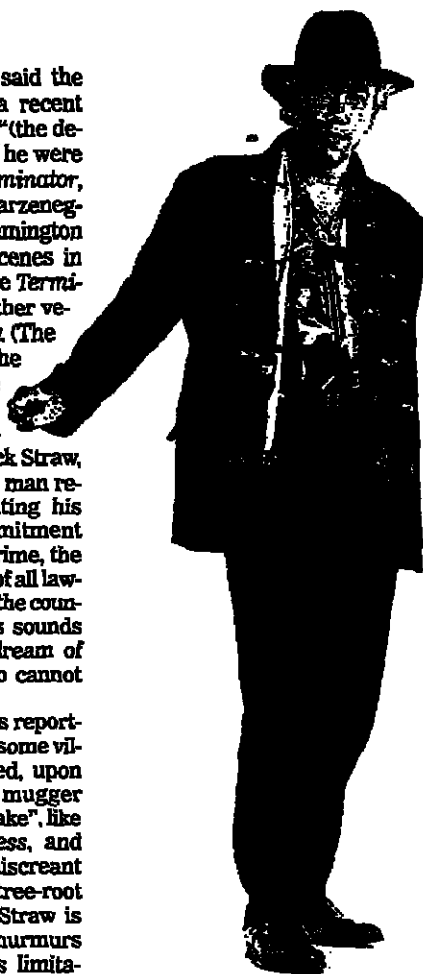
I wonder if this could explain the behaviour of Jack Straw, the Home Secretary. The man responsible for implementing his party's manifesto commitment about "being tough" on crime, the man nominally in charge of all law-enforcement personnel in the country, Mr Straw sometimes sounds like a chap stuck in a dream of tough-guy adventure who cannot awake from it.

Every few months he is reported as having had a pop at some villain. Either he is mugged, upon which he informs the mugger "you're making a big mistake," like Harrison Ford in *Witness*, and runs after him until the miscreant trips over a convenient tree-root and is apprehended; or Straw is burgled, whereupon he murmurs "A man's gotta know his limitations", like Clint Eastwood in *Magnum Force*, and pursues the fleeing intruder until he is trapped in some impassable handball alley, gives himself up and Mr Straw carves another citizen's arrest on his truncheon.

It seems to have happened all through Mr Straw's career; the other day he was at it again, "intervening" when he saw a teenager spitting at people. ("He gave me quite a lot of lip, but after a while he calmed down," said Straw modestly, unaccountably failing to add, "It's all in a day's work for Home Office Man...")

I'm not saying the Home Secretary invents these exciting excursions; but they seem to happen to him so much he must have started believing he's living in some tough-guy movie. We can all, I think, imagine Mr Straw standing before the mirror in his bathroom, leveling a can of Gillette easy-foam at his reflection and saying "You talkin' to me? Who are you calling Four Eyes?"

And now this doughy crusader, this silver-haired vigilante, is sug-



JOHN WALSH
ON MONDAY

gesting we should all have a go at crime in the streets. We should, he thinks, create more "capable guardians" in society, by which he means capable of standing up to criminals and getting away with it. By spooky coincidence, the same day the Home Secretary's initiative made the papers, I got a letter from a friendly neighbourhood WPC called Zoe, asking if I'd like to join a neighbourhood watch scheme. Why yes, Zoe, that seems a lovely idea. And, fired by Mr Straw's example, I set off around the neighbourhood.

Outside the dry cleaners a young thing hawked vigorously and spat on the pavement. I remonstrated, demanded he clean it off the ground

and put it back in his mouth, which he did, apologising for his uncouth behaviour. Past the Crown and Greyhound a man was playing the three-card trick to gullible passers-by. I intervened, explained the error of his ways, confiscated his cards, took his money and his upturned cardboard box and sent him packing. He apologised humbly for any inconvenience. By the Pizza Express I subdued a violent rapist by shouting "Hold the pepperoni!" and other distracting cries before sending him off with a resounding kick in the pants. Outside the post office I bumped into three robbers with bal-clavas and UzI automatic weapons. "Look," I told them, "This simply will not do. It's just not on, d'you hear?" They removed their head-gear. "He's right, you know," they told each other, and handed in their guns to the lollipop man at the pedestrian crossing.

Outside the local school I chased away the swartzy youths with terrible skin who were offering syringes to the scholars. As they ran off they shouted "I am frankly ashamed of my anti-social modus vivendi". I foiled a ram-raider on Dog Kennel Hill by saying "I am the Home Secretary and this is an intervention" quite loudly, before commandeering a truck and giving chase as far as Nunhead.

It felt great. Thanks, Home Sec. Life becomes so much more interesting when you're locked into Jack Straw mode.

Blimey, kids say the damndest things dept: The son of a friend found his father watching a programme about the Beirut hostages. Seeing footage of Terry Waite, newly released from captivity, he said "Who's that man, Daddy?" A very brave man, his father explained, he worked for the Archbishop of Canterbury as a sort of missionary. And when some British folk were kidnapped in the Middle East by these awful people called the, er, Druze militia, Terry Waite went out to Beirut, this big city in the Lebanon, to get them out of jail. But instead, he was himself captured and imprisoned - and for four years, can you imagine this, he was chained to a radiator. "Golly," said the six-year-old. "Was it on?"

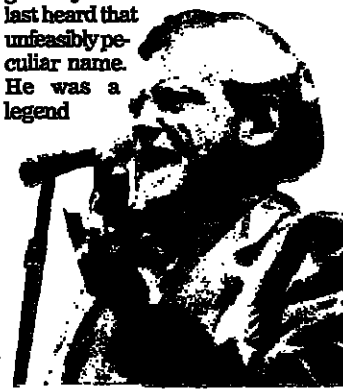
The saga of Oxford University Press and its decommissioned

poets continues to roll along nicely. The universally vilified publishing house is still in discussions with the Oxford English faculty about how it might make poetry profitable, a discussion that could take decades - but along the way it has thrown up an interesting sidelight.

Writing in the TLS two weeks ago, Sir Keith Thomas, chairman of the finance committee that rubber-stamped the Press's decision to bin the poets, denied standards were falling at the publishing house. Standards were, *ou contraire*, "exceptionally high ... enforced by a legendary copy-editor who can read 40 different languages".

Who is this polyglot? His name came up a week later, when Henry Hardy of Wolfson College replied in the TLS, pouring scorn on Sir Keith and on the OUP "Leofranc Holford-Strevens," he wrote aloofly, "edits the books in his care with genius ... but his writ does not run more widely".

Leofranc! A quarter-century has gone by since I last heard that unfashionably peculiar name. He was a legend.



Clockwise from top left: The bionic Home Secretary, Jack Straw, and his alter ego, the extravagantly sculpted actor Arnold Schwarzenegger, hero of the 'Terminator' films; the poet WH Auden, and the singer Joe Cocker



erudition from the corner of the room so amused W.H. Auden that he shushed his fellow dons' attempts to make conversation, in order that he could eavesdrop in peace.

My favourite Leofranc story concerns the 1967 Classics Mods exam paper, on which a passage of Homeric Greek was accompanied by the word: "Translate." It didn't say, "Translate into English," so Holford-Strevens translated it into something else. It seemed to be some form of German but the German faculty couldn't make head nor tail of it. Refusing to admit defeat, they sent it to the Saxon Philology department, but they were none the wiser. The university then tried, successively, the Bavarian Dialect So-

ciety, the Black Forest Patois Association, the Hohenzollern Advanced Linguistics Symposium, but they all shook their heads and said "Sorry". Finally they sent it to every university in Germany - and finally got a reply.

"We think it's a specialised form of peasant argot spoken by Frieslander farmers in the 19th century," said the letter. "There are only two people in the world who speak it now. One's an elderly shepherd who's in a nursing home in Leipzig. And the other is a bloke called Leofranc who lives in Oxford."

"It's a good story," he conceded when we spoke last week, "but it's very exaggerated. What actually happened was an exam question asked for comparisons between

Homeric and other forms of epic, so I wrote about *The Singer of Tales* from the Bosnian epic tradition, and happened to quote a chunk of Serbo-Croat. The rest is just humorous elaboration by people at the Oxford Union."

How did he come to speak 40 languages? "My father started me on French, Spanish and German in my early childhood, and always regretted not having studied Latin and Greek, so I did those too. I began the Slavonic languages when the Sputnik went up and a boy in my class decided to learn Russian. The same thing happened with Arabic. As for Chinese and Sanskrit ... What a guy. Or should I say quel homme? Or quello uomo? (Unfortunately, that's all I can say.)

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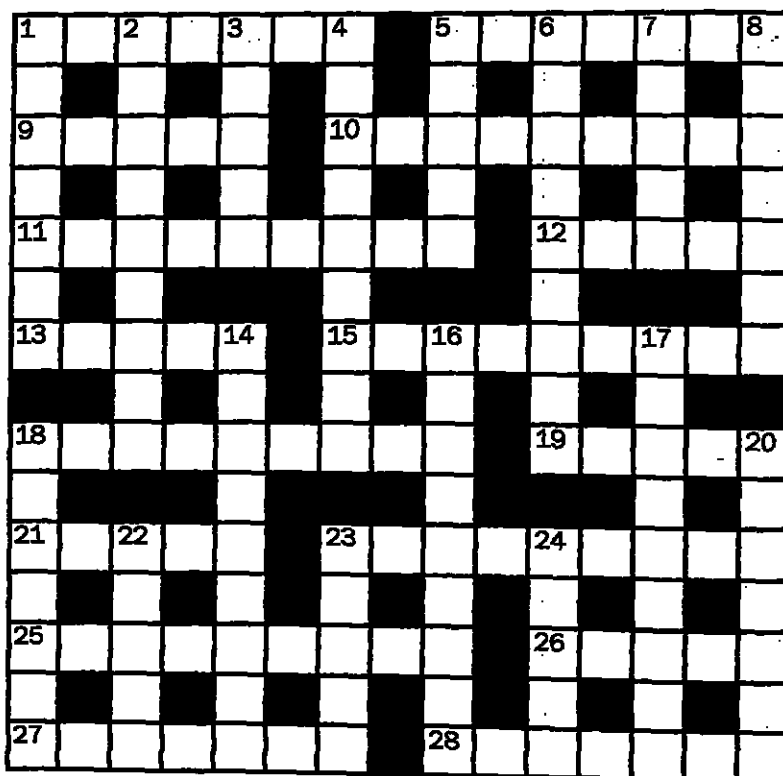
THE MONDAY CROSSWORD

No.3852 Monday 22 February

by Fortia

- ACROSS**
- Calculation, literally? (7)
 - Trainees fill in management post (7)
 - Pension obtained from man who telephoned (5)
 - Money's my goal in producing play (9)
 - Agency to clear out a proportion? (9)
 - A way to cut man's excessive speed (5)
 - Be patronising to a European, we hear (5)
 - Shavian character also moving closer (9)
 - Currently it's the tops (4,5)
 - Brood about retaining small race-course (8)
 - Chap runs in front of a Greek almost (5)
 - Recognise the truth of female's expert data (4,5)
 - People initially off to argue about company (9)
 - Parasite, look, American's starting to eradicate (5)
 - Books returned by sisters on demand (2,5)
 - Continue to cut through wall coating (7)

- DOWN**
- A quiet crossing to Kentish town (7)
 - Pick a member of German assembly (9)
 - Bring up a plank of wood (5)
 - A party leader's flexible about Conservative candidate (9)
 - Appeal accepted, so get going (5)
 - Left a few who are full of promise - it's despicable (9)
 - Sign of decay when carbon's removed (5)



- Important society backing fellow creatures (7)
- Late hour to ring outside reporter (9)
- A Dutch pitcher could be going for a song (4,5)
- Fail to record number originally occupied in college matter (4,5)
- Own way to store Rex's vintage (7)
- Wrongly perceive road cut's to be linked (7)
- Occupied with energy release (3,2)
- Just wrapping pupu's gift (5)
- Decline to join American composer (5)

FULL SPORT COVERAGE IN A NEW 12-PAGE SECTION

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KEEPING FAITH WITH HENMAN AND RUSEDSKI, PAGE 6

2 Graham Kelly on Keegan, a curious cup-tie and unlikely hooligans



3 Giggs goal keeps United grinding out the right results

7 Brian Viner recalls Calcutta nights and dented cups



10 Teeton Mill is the great Gold Cup white hope



SPORT

22 February 1999



Lawrence Dallaglio (second from right), England's captain, takes time with his pack to consider longer-term strategies as Scotland claw their way back into the Calcutta Cup match at Twickenham David Ashdown

England seeking new identity

THERE WAS never an afternoon like it. All four home countries played in London on Saturday, making it a unique occasion, unlikely to be repeated. The sun shone on the 151,000 who packed the grandstands at Twickenham and Wembley, creating conditions ideal for entertaining rugby, and artistry was applauded on both fields. Yet there was a puzzling aspect to the day.

One of those four nations, of course, was playing on its own turf. But, the way things turned out, who knew which? Even when the final whistle blew on an England victory at the RFU's majestic headquarters, there was little in the tentative acclaim by a full house to suggest that this had been a home win, achieved by dint of struggle.

While at Wembley, where the temporarily homeless Welsh were nominally the hosts, the ground's proximity to Kilburn High Road ensured that this was virtually a home fixture for the Irish, who celebrated their win long and loud.

As for the English, perhaps you could hardly blame them for the muted greeting they gave Lawrence Dallaglio - those few of them who were left, that is - as he climbed to the Royal Box to accept the Calcutta Cup for the 10th year in a row.

Supporters who have grown used to the legend of the Carling era, to visions of white shirts slicing effortlessly through the opposition, are



RICHARD WILLIAMS
AT TWICKENHAM

unprepared for the gritty, flawed reality of a match such as this.

Afterwards, the England captain and his coach, Clive Woodward, opted for a realistic attitude and got their apologies in first. "We didn't quite perform the way we wanted to," Dallaglio volunteered. "We took the game to them and got a couple of tries, but then we went into cruise mode and gave away three very soft tries."

Woodward spoke straight away of the "fundamental basic errors" that had let Scotland back into the match after England had established a 14-0 lead inside the opening 20 minutes. "We won the game, which was vital," he said, "but I can assure you that the England dressing-room was a pretty sombre place after-

wards. Scotland played a very fast game, and they did well. But I wasn't expecting to give them the ball as often as we did. If you give any side the ball that often, you're going to struggle. They scored one good try, but the other two were down to our sloppiness."

He had told the team that there was no need for panic, and both he and Dallaglio emphasised that the patchy nature of the performance was a result of England being in transition from one type of game to another. "The game we're trying to play," the captain said, "is aimed at bringing us long-term success against the best sides in the world. It's a high-risk game. But you've got to stick with your principles. If you want to succeed on a global stage, you've got to play in a certain way. If you don't do that, you can be kings of the Northern Hemisphere and that's all."

Dallaglio was unwilling to provide a precise definition of the style to which England aspire, expressing the need for "a technical efficiency that wasn't there today". Presumably what he and Woodward are after is the kind of continuity rugby that moves smoothly from one planned breakdown to another, in exactly the way they managed after six minutes, when Matt Dawson launched successive short-range drives by Darren Garforth, Martin Johnson and Tim Rodber that destroyed the Scot-

tish cover and ended with Rodber's try. A quarter of an hour later, there was a similar cool execution to the midfield handling move that set up Neil Back to draw Cameron Murray and free Dan Luger for a run to the line. Jonny Wilkinson's brisk left-footed conversions emphasised the air of competence and authority.

At that moment, it looked like turning into the sort of embarrassment the All Blacks inflicted on England in Cape Town four years ago. So, in terms of value for money

on the day, thank goodness they started making the mistakes that encouraged Scotland to pick themselves up off the floor. But, although Kenny Logan's failure to land any of three penalty attempts from kickable positions might appear, on paper, to have cost his side a match decided by a margin of three points, his coach knew better. Without trying to put an implausible gloss on Logan's errors, Jim Telfer quietly observed that it was not as simple as that. When you score a penalty, he pointed out, you

have to go back to the middle for the other side to restart, affecting the shape of a game in which possession and territorial advantage are so vital.

The England management's post-match emphasis on the need to develop a certain style of play in order to compete with the Southern Hemisphere giants for the World Cup in the autumn was both welcome and worrying. Welcome because it shows an understanding of the higher imperatives, worrying because it so clearly echoes the words Rowell's tenure, when the endlessly repeated promise of "expansive rugby" became first a mirage and eventually a bit of a joke, the only constant in that erratic time. And worrying, too, because their attritional scrummaging in the second half was so unproductive and inefficient, despite the massive power advantage.

Any available optimism was vested mainly in the performance of the 19-year-old Wilkinson, who kicked four out of four with unfussy assurance and repelled Scotland's closing assaults with a couple of midfield tackles of emphatic courage and conclusiveness. After his ordeal at the hands of Australia on tour last summer, this represented a significant rehabilitation. It will surely not be long before he is ready to take his proper place at outside-half, where

Mike Catt's typically contradictory display on Saturday - exquisite line kicking, meaningless looping breaks, one staggering and costly error at the moment of maximum pressure, when he flapped the ball into Gregor Townsend's hands, allowing his opposite number to gallop away for Scotland's third try - told us nothing we did not already know.

Woodward blended enthusiasm for the Newcastle prodigy with a cautious view of his future role. "Wilkinson had a tremendous game defensively," he said, "and he never looked like missing his kicks. There were a couple of slips, but those two tackles were special. He's an outstanding talent, he's very mature, he fits well into the environment, and he did himself proud today. He's still got things to learn, but this was a big chance and he took it. I think his best position will be No 10, eventually, but he's not playing there for his club at the moment, which makes it difficult."

Among the problems that stand between the coach and the sort of rugby he wants England to play, here is one, at least, for which a solution appears to exist. Starting with the rampant Irish a week on Saturday, Woodward has exactly three games in which to demonstrate genuine progress towards an autumn climax. And, in the process, to convince Twickenham to abandon its present unfamiliar mood of restraint.



Jonny Wilkinson is engulfed by the Scottish defence Allsport

Keegan role strengthens Wilkinson's hand

LAST WEEK was very strange. Kevin Keegan announced there was no way he would be taking the England job, yet finished the week as job-sharing coach.

Arsenal beat Sheffield United with a perfectly legal goal, but are now preparing for tomorrow's replay - should FIFA football's world governing body give its permission - after David Dein and Arsène Wenger offered to forego the victory.

And unlike last, all the little Arnott Insurance Northern League side Tow Law Town, previously known only for propelling sausage maker Chris Waddle into the national spotlight, had their supporters exposed by BBC Radio 5 Live's *On the Line* as football's most active gang of thugs.

Keegan's appointment points up a number of fascinating issues. As one who has always given 100 per cent, whether it's playing, managing, advertising deodorant or

competing in Superstars, he naturally resents being tagged a part-timer. However, he will be unable to watch the England players in live action very much if he is fully committed to Fulham's promotion charge.

The Football Association said it fully respected Keegan's decision to complete his contract with Fulham up to 2000 and would commence the search for a permanent successor to Glenn Hoddle the following day. However, "the following day" ended with David Davies declining to answer whether he still hoped Keegan would change his mind by June.

After some confusing signals in the earlier part of the week, Howard Wilkinson confirmed his increased influence when he said he would be meeting Ray Clemence and Peter Taylor before saying anything about their position. Clemence and Taylor, goalkeeping coach and Under-21 coach respectively,

were appointed by Hoddle, so the fact that it was Wilkinson, rather than the acting chairman Geoff Thompson, the international committee chairman, Noel White, or the executive director, David Davies, playing the lead role spoke volumes. Technical director Wilkinson was now in control of all technical and playing matters apart from the full England team. The technical director had effectively become the director of football.

He will organise all the back-up for Keegan, including administration, travel, scouting and medical services.

He will be instrumental in advising the FA on the successor to Keegan.

And he will be keen to ensure, as he himself commits longer term to the FA, that next time England have a vacancy for a coach - after Keegan's successor succeeds or fails - that there is a cadre of candidates working already within



GRAHAM KELLY

the FA system. David Platt, who has been helping to coach the Under-18s this season, will be only one of several former players to be included as Wilkinson attempts to put in place a long-term structure that will emulate France and, at the same time, avoid the dramas that recur whenever change is made at the top.

The technical director and the England coach will sit side by side at the helm of English

football. The England coach will attract the attention and the glamour. It is he who will advertise corn flakes, but it will be the technical director who will reap the long-term rewards as England build on the success of the new football academies.

Ironically, Wilkinson, having been imprisoned behind his desk and closeted in committee rooms while piloting his Charter for Quality through the Lancaster Gate not-so-rapids, now finds himself handed a tracksuit again by Keegan, who wants him fully involved in England's build-up.

Why it is necessary to motivate England players is another question which has not been satisfactorily answered.

Arsenal's wonderful FA Cup gesture was as unique as it was unexpected. It was bizarre for a tie to be voluntarily forfeited on the grounds that an unwritten rule of 12 years' standing had been inadvertently broken, when every single match con-

tains so many deliberate offences against laws that have been enshrined in the game's fabric for over a hundred years.

The following is a list, slightly longer than that of the English candidates to succeed Keegan in June, of transgressions that managers could eradicate from football overnight:

■ Appealing for a throw-in which clearly belongs to the opposing team.

■ Shirt pulling.

■ The wearing of dangerous jewellery.

■ Shouting obscenities at the assistant referee.

■ Time-wasting.

Why cannot the League Managers' Association and the Professional Footballers' Association seize the moment by getting together to draw up a new code of conduct to cover matters such as these and thereby make the job of the match officials so much easier?

Tow Law Town went to Wembley last season in the FA

Carlsberg Vase. It is hardly a town, more a hamlet resting high in the Durham hills. On the way the Lawyers played some heart-stopping football. They drew 4-4 at Taunton in the semi-final then won the second leg with a goal from Jarrod Suddick. His proud father, Alan, had delighted Blackpool fans 30 years earlier and it is one of life's enduring mysteries how Jarrod never followed him into the Football League. He has superb technique and runs at defences like Paul Walsh once did, twisting and turning with the ball seemingly tied to his laces.

On the Wembley trail Tow Law were sadly accompanied a couple of times by a few local yobs, never previously or since seen at the club, who caused a nuisance in pubs near the host club.

This was an inconvenience to the diminutive Town chairman, public relations officer and honorary legal advisor, John Flynn, who was com-

pelled to muster scarce resources to beef up co-operation with police and the FA.

But it hardly merited inclusion, a year later, in a BBC Radio investigation which coined the phrase "organised gangs of violent thugs" and thus glorified a few mindless clowns.

Strangely the BBC "news release" had Les Ferdinand calling Wisbech Town the worst ground in the country for racist abuse, whereas the "investigator's" own national newspaper preview article attributed these sentiments to the former Fulham striker Leroy Rosenior, who visited Wisbech as manager of Gloucester City. Did both Ferdinand and Rosenior appear in *On the Line*?

Visitors to the Lawyers' Ironworks Road ground are more likely to experience senior citizens exercising their dogs than serious mayhem.

All in all, a bewildering few days. Still, Tony Blair has not commented. Yet.

Wenger's lofty ambitions

BY ADAM SZRETER

Arsenal 5
Leicester City 0

IF THE 1-1 draw with Manchester United at Old Trafford was confirmation that Arsenal are in the running for a second successive league championship then this result, the manner of their performance and a quick look at who they had on the field by the end should be enough to send shudders down the spines of both their principal rivals, who return to the exhausting business of European competition next week.

It is hard to say whether Arsenal are playing any better than this time last year, but they now have reserve strength to rival both Manchester United and Chelsea. By the time the Leicester City players trooped off looking relieved to have kept it down to five, there was no Winterburn, Keown or Petit, who all missed the game, and no Vieira, Overmars or Anelka, all enjoying a well earned rest for the last 20 minutes or so.

Instead there were exciting new names like Kanu and Diawara to add to the existing fringe players such as Vivas, Grimandi, Gardie and Hughes. Suddenly the extent of Arsène Wenger's ambition is apparent. The one blot on his managerial record at Highbury remains this season's Champions' League, but Wenger always played down Arsenal's aspirations in that direction, saying the Premiership was more important. Now he must feel he has the ammunition for a serious assault on Europe next season.

Saturday's exhibition was a dazzling one, the only crumb of comfort for others being the inadequacy of the opposition. It was orchestrated by Dennis Bergkamp, the architect of four of the goals and back on top form after struggling through the first half of the season. "Today was close to my very best of last season," he said. Wenger likened the Dutchman to a pianist



Arsenal's Dennis Bergkamp (centre) barges past Leicester's Robert Ullathorne (left) and Frank Sinclair on Saturday

Allsport

constantly searching to improve his technique.

Ahead of him Nicolas Anelka, who scored his first hat-trick for the club, looked simply unstoppable. Wenger felt the recent England-France game at Wembley, when Anelka scored twice, was "a key moment of his life" and the way he finished his first two goals on Saturday, with stunning right-foot strikes across the keeper, certainly re-

vealed a new level of confidence.

Elsewhere Overmars and Ray Parlour were constant menaces on the flanks, in mid-field Vieira seemed determined to compensate for his friend Petit's absence single-handedly while Tony Adams looked so assured in defence he might have come out for the second half in dressing-gown and slippers with a mug of cocoa in one hand and a

good book in the other.

"It was our best for a long time," Wenger said, before reflecting on the recent increases in Arsenal's playing staff. "We have more offensive potential, but competition for places can make everyone better and it can make them weaker also, so it's up to me to use it well." Leicester's Martin O'Neill can only dream of such problems as

the gap in potential between clubs like his own and Arsenal grows wider by the week.

The Gunners will discover today whether their FA Cup fifth-round re-run goes ahead tomorrow or not, but on this form Sheffield United could be excused for changing their minds about the whole thing. "When you come off the pitch and hear the stadium reacting like that, you know it's coming

back again," Bergkamp said. Is there better yet to come?

Goals: Anelka (23) 1-0; Anelka (27) 2-0; Parlour (42) 3-0; Anelka (44) 4-0; Parlour (48) 5-0.
Leicester City (4-4-2): Seaman; Dixon, Grimandi, Adams, Vivas; Parlor, Vieira (Hughes, 77); Gardie, Overmars (Diawara, 67); Sengulap, Anelka (67). Substitutes not used: Boulton, Menninger (gh).
Leicester City (4-4-2): Keller; Karaman (Walsh, 1-1); Shickle, Elliott, Ullathorne; Savage, Lennon, Zangaris (Pettit, 4-1); Coppell, Birt, Gurnisgum (Fennell, 64). Substitutes not used: Marshall, Arfield (gh).
Referee: P. Hurst (Portland, Dorset). Bookings: none.
Man of the match: Bergkamp.
Attendance: 35,000.

Villa adapt to new style but lose ground

STARVED OF points and goals, Wimbledon and Aston Villa settled for half a loaf as being better than none on a grim afternoon in South London yesterday.

It was a first draw for each in four games that have dented their respective aspirations for the season. But the crowd were left hungry for something more than the stale old scraps on offer. Villa could derive some satisfaction from a clean sheet, John Gregory having switched his customary 3-5-2 formation to a 4-4-2, but the two points surrendered meant more ground lost on the big three leading the Premiership.

Despite some good individual performances, they were unable to take advantage of dominating the first half and could not extend that superiority either before or after Stan Collymore's 14-minute appearance as a substitute.

Wimbledon have now completed six games without scoring. Joe Kinnear says that for the rest of the season Wimbledon must take as their theme song "I get knocked down, but I get up again" - amending it presumably to "I get knocked out". The danger is that tumbling out of two cups with the snuff of Wembley Way in their nostrils might prove as heavy a blow as two years ago, when their season simply collapsed.

Villa adapted well to their new shape. Simon Grayson, given a rare appearance, sat a little deeper than the other midfielders and, with Paul Merson rarely static, it was Wimbledon's back four who were caught flat and square.

Three times early on Chris

Atkinson finds optimism tested

BY STEVE TONGUE

Wimbledon 0
Aston Villa 0

Perry and Dean Blackwell were left behind by sharp runs from Dion Dublin and Julian Joachim. In the first minute, Dublin was onside as he went past Perry and almost lobbed Neil Sullivan, who managed to divert the ball over the bar. Ben Thatcher's determined tackle was required to stop Joachim taking advantage of Merson's through pass, and Neil Sullivan was injured falling at Grayson's feet after the defence had been split again.

Michael Oakes in the Villa goal, though alerted by the presence in the squad of Mark Bosnich for the first time in five months that he needed to be on his mettle, was not required to make a save for 43 minutes, failing to clutch Neil Arley's shot. He had so little to do that during the half-time interval Gregory sent him out onto the scarred pitch for some extra practice, which was rewarded as Wimbledon at last pressed forward more threateningly.

Oakes saved Marcus Gayle's volley in the 59th minute and Efan Ekoku's header shortly afterwards, but those opportunities proved to be the last of a forgettable game.

Wimbledon (4-4-2): Sullivan; Cunningham, Blackwell, Perry, Thatcher (Kinnear, 25); Arley, Roberts, Earle, Euel; Ekoku (Lashburn, 87). Gayle, Substitutes not used: Heald (gh), C. Hughes, Kennedy.
Aston Villa (4-4-2): Oakes; Wilson, Schmeiss, Sougouate, Wright; Taylor, Grayson, Henrie, Merson; Dallas, Joachim (Collymore, 76). Substitutes not used: Bosnich (gh), Barry, Samuel, Thompson.
Referee: P. Alcock (Reni).
Wimbledon: Perry, Aston Villa: Grayson.
Man of the match: Watson.
Attendance: 15,582.

Charlton show appetite for survival

LIKE BARNESLEY before them, Charlton are most people's second favourite Premiership team, which really means everyone's first favourite for an instant return to the Nationwide League, where the laws of economics dictate they belong.

But, unlike Barnesley, who this time last year found themselves rooted to the bottom of the table, this season's guests at the rich man's table have their future in their own hands. This victory - their third on the trot - lifted them out of the relegation zone and in their manager Alan Curbishley's

view it is no more than their performances over the campaign so far have merited. "We have been consistent all season. In most games we have been in with a shout."

"The difference today was that when Derby's only real chance came, Dean Sturridge missed it, while we stuck ours away. Our defence was magnificent and it is now three clean sheets in a row, which

breeds confidence." There would have been many more clean sheets if every attack they faced had been as impotent as Derby's. Even the introduction of Paulo Wanchope, now recovered from his hamstring injury, as a second-half substitute failed to inspire them.

It was another substitute, John Barnes, who had the decisive influence on the result, his corner bouncing around the Derby area before Andy Hunt tucked it away. In the end, Charlton had to wait until four minutes from time to seal their victory, delivering a classic

counter-punch in the face of mounting Derby pressure. Neil Redfern split what remained of the home defence with a ball from deep in his own half which Martin Fringe only had to race onto, keep his nerve and direct beyond Russell Hoult.

Goals: Hunt (4-0-1), Pringle 86 (0-2).
Derby County (3-4-1-2): Hault; Prior, Savage, Langan, Hoggan (76); D. Powell, Carrigan, Erwin, Dorog (44); Wanchope (62); Sturridge (Barnes, 62); Barnes, Substitutes not used: Knight (gh), Schoor.
Charlton Athletic (3-5-2): Rowe; Mills, Brown, Tim Robinson (Middens, 72); Jones (Barnes, 62); Kinsey (Barnes, 18); Redfern, C. Powell, Pringle, Hunt, Substitutes not used: Petterson (gh), Bright.
Referee: U. Rennie (Sheffield). Bookings: none.
Man of the match: Barnes.
Attendance: 27,853.

Boos add to the Middlesbrough blues

AFTER THIS scrappy stalemate George Graham contended that the Premiership is in good health. "After the top two or three teams, everybody else is capable of beating everybody else. Even the top boys can't go away from home and expect to pick up results," he said.

It is a contention that cannot be allowed to go unchallenged because at the final whistle the record crowd did not know whether to boo or cry. So they booed because the home team had never looked like adding to the one goal they have scored

flamboyantly as if his wings had been clipped from behind.

Applause never came into the crowd's head, although many were relieved that Middlesbrough had at least collected their third point from a possible 24. "We didn't deserve to win," admitted Bryan Robson, "but it was pleasing to keep a clean sheet."

But the sheet should have been spoiled in the third minute when Steffen Iversen presented Mauricio Taricco with the game's only clear-cut chance. For Middlesbrough, it fell to

Paul Gascoigne to create. He tried manfully but aside from an 87th minute run he failed, much to his own frustration. His 11th booking means a third suspension and the first blot on Kevin Keegan's "clean sheet".

Middlesbrough (5-3-1-1): Schwarzer; Stockdale, Cooper, Vickers, Pullinger, Gordon; Munro, Gascoigne, Townsend; Moore (16); Sli, Sli (A Campbell, 74). Substitutes not used: Beresford (gh), Maddison, Kinde.
Tottenham Hotspur (4-4-2): Walker; Carr, S. Campbell, Neill, Jarvis; Anderson, Sherwood, Freund, Givara; Iversen, Ferdinand (Armstrong, 1-1). Substitutes not used: Richardson (gh), Nielsen, Simon, Young.
Referee: R. Harris (Oxford). Bookings: Middlesbrough: Gascoigne, Townsend, Stockdale, Cooper, Tottenham: Carr, Vickers, Nelson.
Man of the match: Nelson.
Attendance: 24,687.

Boos add to the Middlesbrough blues

BY JON CULLEY

Nottingham Forest 1
Chelsea 3

Yet Chelsea still won, and comfortably. Einarne Goldback, who doubled the title aspirants' lead after Mikael Forssell had been handed an opener with a large red bow attached, might have finished with four goals. Dave Beasant kept out one. Matthieu Louis-Jean another with a goal-line clearance. In the end the Dane settled for two, pouncing again on the loose ball when Tore Andre Flo, back from his six-week lay-off, tried to mark his comeback in the best strikers' tradition.

Forest created a good deal, as Atkinson said, but while Pierre van Hooijdonk made Franck Leboeuf pay for his one big misjudgement, their finishing let them down. It might seem that 12 games is time enough to pull off a great escape but, in reality, Forest would probably need to win eight of the stuff of fantasy - to be safe.

Goals: Forssell (6) 1-1; Goldback (24) 0-2; Van Hooijdonk (39) 1-2; Goldback (83) 1-3.
Nottingham Forest (3-5-2): Beasant; Boudjane, Palmer, Louis-Jean, Stone, Quaresima (10); Johnson (Gerrard, 69); Rogers, Darchavich (Shirreff, 68); Van Hooijdonk. Substitutes not used: Craxley (gh), Hulse.
Chelsea (4-4-2): De Gea; Fierro, Newbould, Leboeuf, Beasant; Forssell (Micklethorp, 65); Zola (Flo, 61). Substitutes not used: Hinchcock (gh), Terry.
Referee: J. Winter (Stockport-on-Trent). Bookings: Forest: Quaresima, Palmer, Callaghan.
Man of the match: Goldback.
Attendance: 26,351.

Easypay
THE NATIONAL LOTTERY ENDORSED GAME

Game Results 20/2/99
This Saturday there were 7 score draws:

Category	No. of winners	Amount to each winner
7 Score draws	6	£15,007
6 Score draws	78	£491
5 Score draws	1347	£5

Matchmaker Adjudicated Results for postponed matches
NORWICH (12) NIMROCK (1) DUNFERMLINE, AIRDRIE (1) ST MIRREN
Aston Villa (10) NONE
Hull City (10) NONE
Sheff Wed (10) NONE

1432 LUCKY WINNERS THIS WEEK
PAYOUTS FOR 7, 6 AND 5 SCORE DRAWS
You can now play until 4.30pm every Saturday.

Value of tickets entered this week: £358,265.
34% of sales contributed to prizes.
This week's contribution to good causes £78,000.

EVERY WEEK IT'S A WHOLE NEW BALL GAME.

To claim your prize, follow instructions on the back of your ticket.
You must be 18 or over to play or claim a prize.
In the event of any discrepancy in the above, the data contained in the central computer system shall prevail.



THAT WAS THE WEEKEND THAT WAS

EDITED BY JON CULLEY

Pick your own colours, Ipswich tell their fans

EVERYBODY GRUMBLES about the price of replica football kits, commonly perceived as the No. 1 rip-off perpetrated by football clubs on the sad, compliant, captive audience known as fans. But one set of supporters can boast a small concession.

These lucky punters know that, when they pay through the nose for next season's new strip, they will at least have had a say in how it looks.

The idea comes from Ipswich Town, whose chairman, David Sheepshanks, said it was "important we

take account of our fans' views." Town's novel approach involves supporters voting on a choice of four strip designs, unveiled in Saturday's matchday programme at Portman Road as well as in the local press and on the club's official website. Fans have until 3 March to cast their votes.

"Our supporters represent the essence of our club," Sheepshanks said. "If we are to continue enjoying record sales for Ipswich Town replica kits, then it is imperative we adopt a responsible attitude."

The choices, it has to be said, are not terribly imaginative. Fans can vote for (a) blue top with white shorts, (b) blue top and shorts with white flashes, (c) white trimmed blue top teamed with blue-trimmed white shorts or (d) blue top with white sleeves and white shorts.

Then again, Ipswich are a proudly traditional club, a point emphasised by their spokesperson, Alesha Gooderham. "Those are the colours we know the supporters are proud to wear," she said.

Paddy baiters turn the air Sky Blue

BY COMMON consent, it was a markedly non-vintage Manchester United that ground out a winning result on Saturday City's muddy pitch on Saturday. And the injustice was not lost on one group of City supporters sitting in front of the Highfield Road press gallery on Saturday, as two representatives of Manchester radio stations discovered.

After the final whistle, the frustrated fans rounded on the hapless broadcasters, insisting in terms certainly not fit for the airwaves that they should tell their listeners exactly how lucky United had been. They were clearly no respecters of reputation. For underneath one set of headphones was the one-time Old Trafford legend Pat Crerand, under the

other the former United manager, Sir Alex Ferguson.

Eye-witnesses said that Crerand, sent off six times in his United career, was considerably less than amused at the tone of some of the remarks and McGuinness, commenting for GMR, had to step in with some swift diplomacy.

"They were getting a bit loud and excited," McGuinness said. "They felt hard done by over losing and wanted Paddy to tell his audience that United had been lucky. It was perhaps just as well he had his earphones on because I don't think he could hear what they were shouting. But it all ended peacefully and no blows were struck. Paddy and I are a bit calmer these days."

KEY NUMBERS

3
The goals, including the two that got yesterday, that West Ham have scored in their last 17 visits to Anfield.

1
The minutes it took Darren Bullock, suspended three times this season for Swindon, to be sent off on his Bury debut.

30
The goals scored by the nation's top scorer, West Bromwich Albion's Les Hughes, after the two he got yesterday. His nearest pursuer has 23.

I TOLD YOU SO

There is no game in the Premiership you can be guaranteed to win. Jim Smith, the Derby manager, before Charlton threw a spanner in his side's UEFA Cup drive.

PREMIERSHIP TEAM OF THE WEEK

NICOLAS ANELKA Arsenal	ELMARIE GOLDBRAK Chelsea	ALBERT FERREIR Chelsea
DEANINE BERKAMP Arsenal	DANNY SONNER Sheffield Wednesday	SIMON ROYCE Charlton Athletic
HASSAN KACHLOUL Southampton	JOHN BARNES Charlton	ROBERT SONG Liverpool
	PETER RUDI Sheffield Wednesday	SOL CAMPBELL Tottenham Hotspur

Missing... making it... and mistaken



ANDY MYERS
CHELSEA

THE 25-year-old midfielder made 17 appearances for the Stamford Bridge side last season but has yet to figure once this term - apparently becoming another English player squeezed out by Chelsea's foreign imports. Surely he will not want to languish in the shadows much longer, having last played in the Premiership against Blackburn Rovers last April.



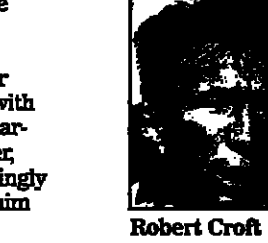
CURTIS WOODHOUSE
SHEFFIELD UNITED

THE talented England Under-18 midfielder has been targeted by the Newcastle manager, Rudi Garcia, and attracted the attention of Leeds and Sheffield Wednesday in recent weeks. But, after lengthy contract talks with the Driffield-born 18-year-old, the Blades manager, Steve Bruce, is increasingly confident he can keep him at Bramall Lane.



DAN PETRESCU
CHELSEA

HAVING stood in for Agent Fox Mulder in the X-Files, Chelsea's Romanian wing-back now seems to be developing a parallel career as an England off-spinner. How he has managed to combine the two is a puzzle. Maybe Mulder can answer that one.



ROBERT CROFT
CHELSEA

Parma keeper linked with United switch

MANCHESTER UNITED have found the man they want to succeed Peter Schmeichel in the 21-year-old Italian Gianluigi Buffon, according to the *People*, who say United have offered £4m for the Parma goalkeeper. But the report suggests that Milan are also in the hunt and Parma may hold out for £5.5m. The same paper reckons former United target Mark Bosnich has put off Roma by asking for £50,000 a week.

West Ham, it seems, could sell three players to Liverpool if they wanted. The *Sunday Mirror* says the Anfield manager, Gerard Houllier, has his sights on Frank Lampard Jr as well as Rio Ferdinand, while the *News of the World* quotes Eyal Berkovic as saying it is "70 per cent certain" he will start next season with Liverpool.

Both the *News of the World* and *Mirror* say that NTL, the American media corporation bidding to take control of Newcastle, wants to restore Kevin Keegan to the

manager's office at St James' Park. The *Mirror* says the Football Association has lined up a £1m incentive for him to stay in charge of the England side, but that NTL will pay off Raul Gullit and offer a £10m five-year deal once Keegan's four-match England stint is over.

The *Mail on Sunday* says Everton and Sheffield Wednesday are in a £2m battle for the Utrecht striker Michael Mols. The *Mirror* reckons Everton's Olivier Dacourt is attracting interest from Aston Villa, Arsenal and Chelsea.

The *People* says Everton are among four clubs keen on £2m-rated Rosenborg Trondheim centre-back Andre Bergolmo, the others being Tottenham, Leeds and Newcastle. The *News of the World* reports that Stan Collymore has rejected a chance to leave Aston Villa to return to Nottingham Forest, while the *People* says Villa's Alan Thompson may return to Bolton if they go up.

SEEN AND HEARD

Pull the other one: "Taking Fulham to the top is the highlight of the week" - England's new coach, Kevin Keegan. Vialli funny: "As a coach I can't be seen stepping out with a blonde on my arm, unless it's Roberto di Matteo" - Gianluca Vialli tells *Gazzetta dello Sport* how being a manager has changed his life. Silent tribute: Coventry's players kept the referee's whistle quiet by not conceding a single free-kick for 39 minutes against Manchester United. Fanning the flames: "We want nine" - Chelsea supporters after going two up against Nottingham Forest.

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

	Home					Away					5-game form
GD	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Most recent
+33	9	4	1	33	14	6	5	2	28	14	WWWWL
+18	8	5	0	19	7	5	6	2	20	14	WLWWL
+22	8	5	0	21	4	6	5	3	13	8	WWWWL
+10	8	2	3	24	17	4	6	3	13	10	DDWLL
+14	8	3	2	21	6	3	6	4	18	19	WLWWW
+17	7	4	2	33	16	4	2	7	16	16	WWLWLL
+1	5	5	3	13	12	4	5	4	12	12	WWLWL
-9	7	3	3	18	19	3	4	6	11	19	LDLWD
-6	7	5	1	18	11	2	4	6	11	24	DDWDL
-1	7	2	4	20	16	2	5	6	14	19	DDWWL
-3	4	8	1	16	10	3	4	6	17	26	LDLDD
+7	5	3	4	13	7	4	2	7	18	17	DWLWW
-2	5	5	2	19	16	2	6	5	10	15	DDDDL
-9	5	3	4	17	18	2	6	5	8	16	DLDDL
-9	3	7	3	8	6	3	2	8	11	22	LLWL
-6	4	4	5	18	13	2	4	7	13	24	DLWWW
-9	5	3	5	15	16	1	5	7	12	20	LWDLL
-13	5	4	4	17	14	1	2	10	7	23	LWDL
-23	5	2	6	20	22	1	3	8	5	26	WLWLW
-32	1	6	6	11	24	2	1	10	11	30	LWLLL

NATIONWIDE DIVISION ONE

	Home					Away					5-game form	
GS	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Most recent 5	
65	13	2	1	37	8	7	7	2	28	14	WLWWWW	
56	10	4	2	33	15	6	7	2	23	19	DWWWWW	
57	11	3	2	36	14	6	4	6	21	20	WLWDD	
43	10	1	5	21	9	7	6	3	22	11	LWWDW	
46	8	6	2	21	11	7	3	6	25	18	DWDWD	
49	8	7	2	23	16	6	4	6	26	27	LDLWL	
34	9	4	2	22	10	5	3	8	12	21	WWDL	
44	8	7	1	24	13	5	2	9	20	20	DWDWL	
56	9	2	5	33	23	4	6	7	23	29	WDL	
45	6	7	2	24	17	6	3	7	21	24	DLWL	
49	8	4	4	28	24	4	5	6	21	25	DLWW	
43	9	6	1	29	16	3	3	10	14	34	LDL	
39	5	7	4	25	19	4	6	6	14	19	DLDD	
41	5	5	6	22	22	3	10	3	19	22	DWDWD	
39	5	5	6	19	17	4	7	5	20	22	DLWW	
43	7	8	1	32	19	2	2	12	11	35	LLDL	
43	6	7	3	31	26	3	2	11	12	27	WDL	
42	7	4	5	24	18	1	7	8	18	32	WDDWD	
35	5	6	5	19	16	3	3	10	16	28	DDDL	
34	6	4	6	22	23	2	4	10	12	31	LWDL	
33	7	1	8	15	23	2	3	11	18	33	LLWW	
28	7	4	5	19	19	0	6	10	9	27	DL	
42	4	7	5	24	28	1	6	9	18	32	DDDL	
35	4	3	9	20	32	1	5	10	15	33	LLDL	

FOOTBALL RESULTS

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP	THIRD DIVISION	SCOTTISH LEAGUE	ITALIAN LEAGUE
<p>Yesterday</p> <p>15.00</p> <p>Wolves 0 Aston Villa 0</p> <p>Saturday</p> <p>15.00</p> <p>Arsenal 5 Leicester 0</p> <p>Blackburn 1 Sheff Wed 0</p> <p>Derby 0 Charlton 0</p> <p>Leeds 1 Everton 0</p> <p>Middlesbrough 0 Tottenham 0</p> <p>Nottm Forest 1 Chelsea 2</p> <p>Southampton 2 Newcastle 1</p>	<p>Yesterday</p> <p>15.00</p> <p>Cardiff 0 Mansfield 0</p> <p>Sheff Wed 0 Hartlepool 1</p> <p>Sheff Wed 0 Hartlepool 1</p> <p>Sheff Wed 0 Hartlepool 1</p> <p>Sheff Wed 0 Hartlepool 1</p> <p>Sheff Wed 0 Hartlepool 1</p> <p>Sheff Wed 0 Hartlepool 1</p> <p>Sheff Wed 0 Hartlepool 1</p> <p>Sheff Wed 0 Hartlepool 1</p> <p>Sheff Wed 0 Hartlepool 1</p>	<p>Yesterday</p> <p>15.00</p> <p>Blackburn 1 Sheff Wed 0</p> <p>Derby 0 Charlton 0</p> <p>Leeds 1 Everton 0</p> <p>Middlesbrough 0 Tottenham 0</p> <p>Nottm Forest 1 Chelsea 2</p> <p>Southampton 2 Newcastle 1</p>	<p>Yesterday</p> <p>15.00</p> <p>Blackburn 1 Sheff Wed 0</p> <p>Derby 0 Charlton 0</p> <p>Leeds 1 Everton 0</p> <p>Middlesbrough 0 Tottenham 0</p> <p>Nottm Forest 1 Chelsea 2</p> <p>Southampton 2 Newcastle 1</p>

Fifa to rule today on Arsenal rematch

ARSENAL AND Sheffield United might not, after all, replay their controversial FA Cup tie. While Arsenal are happy to play the fifth-round tie again tomorrow, Fifa, the world game's governing body, meets this morning and expects to make an announcement on whether the match can go ahead.

In the original game, Arsenal's Nwankwo Kanu raced on to a Ray Parlour throw-in that had been intended for the Sheffield United goalkeeper,

BY ALAN NIXON

Alan Kelly, before feeding Overmars for the winner. Despite support for the replay from its president Sepp Blatter, Fifa is considering whether competition rules have been broken, and has requested documents from the FA relating to Cup regulations.

"I am certain we have broken none of our own rules regarding the FA Cup," David Davies, the FA's acting chief executive,

said. "That is the issue here. We have sole ownership of the FA Cup and while Fifa are doing this to satisfy themselves I am certain the match will go ahead as planned."

The change in Fifa's thinking on the rematch became apparent at the annual meeting of its law-making International Board in Wales on Saturday, which discussed the issue of playing the ball back to the opposing team after a stoppage, but decided not to incorporate

it into law. There was one significant decision: yellow cards will be automatic for any player cheating, diving or feigning injury from next season. Under the modification to Law 12, "simulating action" on the field intended to deceive the referee will be deemed unsporting behaviour.

The Board also said it was continuing with an experiment, which has been operating in Jersey for the last year, of advancing a free-kick 10 yards,

rugby-style, if the defending team does not retreat that distance.

Aston Villa are poised to ease their defensive crisis by signing Celtic's Alan Stubbs in a £4m deal. Stubbs is set to complete the move to Villa Park in the next 48 hours and will make his debut against Coventry on Saturday.

South Africa will allow their captain, Lucas Radebe, to play for Leeds United in their FA Cup replay against Tottenham Hotspur on Wednesday in spite of in-

ternational commitments three days later. Radebe has been called up in a squad of 18 for the African Nations' Cup qualifier at home to Gabon on Saturday.

The Blackburn goalkeeper, John Filan, is hoping for an international call from the Republic of Ireland, despite the fact he played for Australia in the 1992 Olympics. Filan said yesterday he is eligible for the Irish through his grandfather

and would be interested in joining Mick McCarthy's squad.

Chris Sutton's international aspirations were given a fillip on Saturday, even though he did not take the field for Blackburn. The FA's Technical Director, Howard Wilkinson, went to Ewood Park to watch the Rovers striker, whose international career appeared to be over after he refused to play for the England B team. Sadly, Sutton failed a fitness test and Wilkinson's trip was wasted.

OUTSIDE EDGE

Gazza has a magic wand

I DON'T KNOW about you but, just like Bryan Robson, I seem to have become a real sucker for the game's most outlandish character. I'm pretty sure I'm not alone either. Even our Kevin says he'll consider him for England.

We're punters, for God's sake. We need titillation. And let's face it, nobody gets on people's tits quite like Gazza. In a loveable way, of course.

Take Anfield last Saturday week. Approaching the ground, everybody had an extra spring in their step. Now some might attribute that to those experimental rubber pavements the Corpy has recently put down. And, in truth, they were a bit on the spongy side. But, hey, how then do you explain the fact that so many people around the ground were acting like complete tossers or that every chippy between Anfield and Ankara had run out of doner kebabs?

Point taken?

Nor did Gazza's magic let us down on the pitch either.

Ten minutes gone. Gazza on the penalty spot. Back to the Kop goal. Flanked by three Liverpool defenders. Kills an impossible high ball on his chest. Stone dead. Then, while it's still in the air, he only goes and whips out a pair of those plastic breasts and flashes them at a startled Kop. I mean, is he a rascal or what? Then, as the ball comes down, he opens his mouth and swallows the blessed thing.

Now that is wizardry by anyone's standards. Fele Freddie Starr. Marvin The Sword-Swallower. You name it. The sort you may only ever witness once in a lifetime. Twice, if you're one of those stuffy so-and-so's who always win the pub spot-the battle.

Anyway, the incident set me thinking. Broader issues began to loom large. Would Gazza ever manage to pass that ball? Where would the game be without characters like him? Could we handle 22 Stig Inge Bjornebey playing each other week after week?

You know what I'm getting at. Picture the scene. A typical bleak Saturday afternoon in February. Driving rain, biting wind, Windblown the visitors. Your mates at the door. Coal fire blazing. What should you do? Go with them and suffer a Mogadon onslaught? Or stay at home and iron out the creases on your granny's bottom?

No contest! "Granny, where are you? Come to Alsy. Come and get your wrinkles done. There's a good girl."

Of course, if Joe Kinnear had just signed Gazza, then you've a different ball game entirely. Not even a Force 10 hailstorm could keep you indoors. Even if you were busy smoothing Michelle Pfeiffer's bottom.

"Er sorry, Michelle girl. 'Fraid I'll have to pass on this one. Gazza's playing. I'll, er, give you a ring when I get back from the match, eh pet?"

Perhaps we can do it again some other time? OK, so maybe that's stretching things too far. Perhaps you'd dash back home during half-time?

Surely, though, you get my point?

ALAN EDGE

Keegan savours home comfort

THREE MILES and a world away from the power portals of Lancaster Gate, the afternoon sun peeled off the Thames alongside Craven Cottage and good-humoured supporters happily traded chants of "Keegan for Fulham" and "Horsfield for England". Suddenly it was not so hard to understand how Kevin Keegan could describe Fulham as the "highlight of my week". How could a part-time job on an industrial estate in north-west London compare to this?

"Don't you get a different buzz coming here?" Keegan asked later. "Don't you come here and think 'This is how it used to be'? It's a bit of nostalgia maybe, and a bit of romance. But I like this ground. It takes me back to Scunthorpe, where I started."

A crowd of almost 12,000, roughly the average at Craven Cottage, were on hand to enforce Keegan's point. "We didn't get any more people in today than we would normally. Fulham's not that type of club. There's more clubs like this than there are your Man Utds or your Chelseaes where the supporters are paying £12 to stand and where the players

BY GRAHAM SNOWDON

Fulham 2
Notts County 1

will have a drink with the supporters afterwards. It still happens here. This is real football."

No matter, there was still something distinctly unreal about the sight of the new England coach pacing up and down the touchline as his team of preference ground away at the stoical resistance of Notts County. That Fulham were able to do so was thanks mainly to the tireless running of Barry Hayles and two strikes of genuine quality from Geoff Horsfield. "Two years ago he was working 60 hours a week on a building site," Keegan said admiringly of his former Halifax charge. "Getting hold of the ball was his cement. The bricks were the good performance he put in today and the goals were the pointing. His wall looks nice now."

A late header by County's Gary Owens briefly threatened to spoil Keegan's big moment, but at the final whistle there were smiles all round. "I don't want to talk about the other thing," he said immediately afterwards. He would, he said, concentrate on preparing Fulham for tomorrow's home game against Reading before meeting Arthur Cox and Derek Fazackerley on Thursday to discuss his inaugural national season.

Keegan, 36, is Fulham's (57) 2-1. Owens (62) 2-1. Fulham (A-2): Taylor; Finnan, Symons, Albert, Benger, Topley, Smith, Hayward, Salako (62); Hayles, Horsfield, Hayles (Latterman, 60). Substitutes not used: Underwood.

Notts County (4-4-2): Ward; Hendon, Redman, Lister, Reade, Richardson, Owens, Carr, Dyer (Hughes, 62); Craney (Jones, 77). Goals: Salako (62), Craney (77). Referee: S. McMahon (Stockport). Bookings: Fulham: Hayles. Notts: Ward. Man of the match: Horsfield. Attendance: 11,909.



Keegan: Single-minded



Mark Fish of Bolton is first to the ball despite the sliding challenge of Birmingham's Paul Furlong at St Andrew's yesterday. Allsport

Todd's title dream undimmed

BOLTON'S RUN of six consecutive League victories ground to a halt yesterday, and although a point was enough to lift the visitors into second place, there is no doubt that the team happiest with this result was not playing, as Sunderland's lead at the top of the First Division was only reduced by one point.

Birmingham went up one place as well, to fifth, but Bolton, who have now gone 15 League games without defeat, will need to increase their ambition on the evidence of their second-half performance, if they are to put some weight behind the belief of their manager, Colin Todd, that they can challenge Sunderland.

"Most teams might be look-

BY CONRAD LEACH

Birmingham City 0
Bolton Wanderers 0

ing at second place with Sunderland clearly in the lead but we are still looking at first," Todd said. "People say it's not possible for us, that people said two months ago that we wouldn't be in this position now. The players are disappointed that we didn't get three points today but that's only because the boys think we are capable of winning every single game."

The home side, too, can boast some impressive recent form, with one defeat in 10 games, yet despite playing in front of the new £4.5m Railway Stand,

opened this afternoon and which led to a record home crowd for this season, they still failed to find the inspiration to score.

It was the visitors who gave Birmingham a shock after 10 minutes when Bob Taylor passed to Dean Holdsworth, who ran across the top of the box only for Michael Johansen to pick the ball off his toes and drive a first-time shot that beat the goalkeeper, Kevin Poole, but ricocheted off the crossbar to safety.

Birmingham reacted in positive fashion and 14 minutes later, Bryan Hughes latched on to a Martin Granger cross with a vicious volley from 18 yards out that Jussi Jaaskelainen just managed to get his

body behind, with Mark Fish clearing up the rebound.

The Birmingham manager, Trevor Francis, repeated his belief afterwards that Bolton should earn automatic promotion this season without giving up on his own team's hopes, but after Hughes' effort it was the Blues who ran the show. With five minutes in the first half remaining it was Hughes who slipped a pass behind Bolton's defence, but Paul Furlong saw his shot cleared for a corner by Jaaskelainen. From the ensuing set-piece Gary Rowett was unlucky to see his header cleared off the line by Scott Sellars.

Bolton responded in kind three minutes later with a header by Holdsworth that was goal-

bound until Simon Charlton cleared for a corner standing virtually on his goal-line.

That was Bolton's last chance as they let Birmingham swarm over them in the second half, with Graham Hyde and Peter Ndlovu trying their luck from the edge of the area, but Francis was left reflecting: "A draw was about right but we were the aggressors and deserved to win."

Birmingham City (4-4-2): Poole; Charlton, Purvis, Rowett, Bates, Granger, Hyde (Robinson, 81); O'Connor, Hughes, Ndlovu (Forster, 81). Furlong (Hutchinson, 66). Bolton Wanderers (4-4-2): Jaaskelainen; Whitlow, Elliott, Fish, Cox, Sellars, Archer (Gardner, 76); Farrant, Johansen, Holdsworth (Hansen, 76). Taylor. Substitutes not used: Phillips. Referee: M. Piers (Preston). Bookings: Birmingham: Hyde, Granger. Bolton: Elliott, Cox. Man of the match: Ndlovu. Attendance: 26,051.

Old gold fading but Keane's stock rises Larsson leads Celtic rampage

THE FATES are conspiring against Colin Lee, the way fate tends to gang up against those footballing figures destined never to be fully feted.

Lee, the caretaker manager still operating at Wolves without a contract, will also be without his best player, Robbie Keane, before too long.

In a few weeks' time Keane will be spirited away to the World Under-20 Championship in Nigeria by the Republic of Ireland and, to prove it, has just had his injections.

If only Lee had the wherewithal to immunise the players

BY ANDREW MITCHELL

Sunderland 2
Wolverhampton Wanderers 1

he leaves behind against the perils of plodding on without their teenage inspiration, perhaps he might convince the Old Gold that the First Division play-off place he craves will turn out to be something more than foot's gold.

Sadly for him the evidence suggests that Lee will fail. Wolves, as underlined even in defeat, grow ever more dependent on the 28m-rated striker who has a future altogether

more assured than the club which discovered him. True, Keane was unable to help secure the draw or win which would have extended Wanderers' unbeaten run to seven games. However, if anyone was going to be it for them, then it would have been this explosive bundle of attacking energy. It was Keane who hustled Andy Melville into giving away the goal Sunderland did concede midway through the first half. He also had two others disallowed, one through no fault of his own. Sunderland, in short, found him very difficult to handle.

Yet Peter Reid's runaway leaders were able to sustain their virtually unchallenged march on the Premiership. Although they scored an early goal through Allan Johnston, this was not the day to view them. Only through sheer persistence did they find their winning goal, in stoppage time through Niall Quinn, after Johnston's mis-hit shot fell at the veteran striker's feet for his 17th goal of the season.

Even with his spectacles on, Lee could not have seen that coming, just as he could not see why one of Keane's second-half

efforts had been disallowed. Quinn offered an alternative explanation as to why his young international strike partner had been docked a goal, referring to Havard's rough challenge on Melville as "a forearm smash right out of Giant Haystacks' repertoire".

Goals: Johnston (10) 1-0; Melville (23) 1-1; Quinn (80) 2-1. Sunderland (4-4-2): Sorrensen; Melvin, White, Butler, Gray, Serrano, Clark, Ball, Johnson; Quinn, Phillips. Substitutes not used: Williams, Richie, Bridges. Wolverhampton Wanderers (4-4-2): Stowell; Arkins, Richards, Curle, Muscat; Embien, Sedgley, Osborn, Simpson; Keane. Ref: Substitutes not used: Connolly, Robinson, Giles. Referee: T. Richards (Preston). Bookings: Wolves: P. Keane. Man of the match: Keane. Attendance: 41,268.

BY DAVID MCKINNEY

Motherwell 1
Celtic 7

Celtic were ahead just four minutes later, again from a free-kick. This time Lubomir Moravcik sent his shot curling past Steve Woods.

After half-time Celtic moved 3-1 ahead, thanks again to Larsson. With three defenders clustered around him there appeared no way out, but he managed to find space before driving a low shot past Woods.

Celtic lost Moravcik after 70 minutes with hamstring trouble. His exit paved the way for a return to action in midfield, after serious injury, for Craig Burley, who celebrated by scoring four minutes later.

In the final six minutes Celtic produced a further three goals, the first from Mark Burchill, another substitute. Larsson then made it six and, with two minutes remaining, the Swede polished off the night with a fine header for his fourth.

Motherwell (3-4-1-2): Woods; Craig (Nevin, 30); McGowan; Taylor; Doebburg; Braithwaite; May (Rimes, 69); Spencer; McCulloch; Coyle (Adams, 63). Substitutes not used: Ramsey, Sammis. Celtic (3-4-1-2): Gould; Boyd, Riech, Maffay; McNamara, Lambert, Binkley, Mahé (McKay, 78); Moravcik (Burley, 70); Larsson, Burchill (Burchill, 82). Substitutes not used: Kerr (64), Healy. Referee: K. Clark (Paisley).

Conceicao sustains Lazio's title challenge

LAZIO ADDED further weight to their Italian Serie A title credentials with a 1-0 victory over Internazionale yesterday.

The Rome side's Portuguese midfielder Sergio Conceicao scored the only goal in the 38th minute, snapping up a rebound after the Inter goalkeeper, Gianluca Pagliuca, could only parry an effort from the forward Christian Vieri.

Milan remain three points behind Lazio at the top following their 1-0 win over Cagliari. Milan had to wait until the 50th minute to take the lead, Olivier Bierhoff producing a header which Matteo Villa could only turn into his own net.

EUROPEAN ROUND-UP

Fourth-placed Parma kept their title challenge on course with a 2-1 win at Salernitana. Parma's defender Fabio Cannavaro opened a scoring, connecting with Diego Fuser's corner to head home. The Croatian Mario Stancic added Parma's second in the 56th minute while Marco Di Vaio notched a consolation goal for Salernitana at the end.

Carlo Ancelotti made it two wins out of two since becoming coach of Juventus with a 2-0 victory over Vicenza. The champions started well when Nicola Amoroso opened the scoring

after 12 minutes. Antonio Conte made it two on the half-hour. Sampdoria earned a morale-boosting victory in their fight against relegation by beating Fiorentina 3-2.

In Spain, Barcelona had their lead at the top of the Primera Division cut to three points after being held to a 0-0 draw at third-placed Celso Vigo. The Catalan side endured the last 19 minutes with only 10 men after their captain, Luis Figo, received his second yellow card for a handball.

Malorca narrowed the gap behind Barcelona by winning 3-1 at Oviedo, helped by a goal in each half from Dani Garcia.

The Real Madrid president, Lorenzo Sanz, had few words of comfort for his coach, Gunter Hiddink, after the European champions' 1-0 home defeat by Athletic Bilbao. "We cannot carry on like this for much longer," Sanz said. "The supporters want solutions... we are going to see what we can do."

The runaway leaders of the Bundesliga in Germany, Bayern Munich, resumed their title hunt in impressive fashion with a 3-0 win at MSV Duisburg on Saturday. It was a return to action for all Bundesliga teams after a 60-day mid-season break and Bayern increased their lead to 10 points over second-

placed Bayer Leverkusen, who could draw at home to Freiburg. Bayern's striker Carsten Jancker put his side ahead from close range in the 28th minute. Steffen Effenberg scored the second four minutes before half-time, and the substitute Thomas Helmer put the issue beyond doubt by heading home in the 71st minute.

Leverkusen trailed Freiburg for most of their match thanks to Marco Weiss' penalty. The home side wasted numerous opportunities before snatching a draw with a goal from the Brazilian-born German international striker, Paulo Rink, six minutes from time.

TODAY'S NUMBER

80,000

The estimated number of Sydney residents who yesterday walked round the track during an open day in the new stadium that will host the athletics in the 2000 Olympic Games.

Henman and Rusedski feel the strain of expectation

BOOK OF THE WEEK

Football Memories
by Brian Glanville
Virgin, £16.99, hardback

THE deceptively plain title of this quasi-autobiography by a pioneering English football critic is undermined by what may well be the most entertaining index ever published, full of deliciously improbable juxtapositions: Altamir, Jose and Amis, Kingsley, Hildegarde, Nando and Highsmith, Patricia, Rossi, Paolo and Roth, Philip, Best of all is the pairing of Benetti, Romeo and Bennett, Alan; perhaps Brian Glanville, who is no stranger to fiction, will one day invent a conversation between Juventus's midfield assassin and the mild-mannered Yorkshire dramatist.

As the index, so the book. The story of a tubercular Jewish public schoolboy who abandoned a career in law to pursue his enthusiasms, it features a cast, almost literally, of thousands, many of whom have managed to do things like combine appearances for Ayr United with the authorship of a monograph on Strindberg.

Although he began life as an Arsenal fan, it was in Italy, where he lived for several years as a young man, that his perspective was broadened. Shortly before Hungary shattered England at Wembley in 1953, the 22-year-old Glanville had begun work on a book titled *British Soccer and The Foreign Challenge*. "Its theme," he writes, "was to be the gradual decline of the British game as it was steadily overtaken by European and South American football."

Between 1958 and 1992, the readers of *The Sunday Times* sports pages were the beneficiaries of this vision, their knowledge of the world game enriched by his willingness to examine the mysteries of *cate-nao*. He was not the only football writer capable of a novelist's use of language, but he had a unique voice, sophisticated and argumentative. Happy memories of his Sunday morning wake-up calls are regularly evoked throughout a book in which the provocations outnumber the proficiencies.

Virgin Books' editing, by the way, is a disgrace. We get "Dany" Blanchflower, Geoffrey "Greene" of the *Times*, John "Roddha" of the *Guardian*, La "Bombanera", someone who is the "loyalist" of friends and, among Muhammad Ali's entourage, not only "Budini" Brown but also a soul singer, soon to die in a motel shooting, called Sam "Fox". Perhaps Richard Branson plans to do for literature what he has already achieved with railway timetables.

RICHARD WILLIAMS

TOP TEN BOOKS

- 1 *Football Memories*, Brian Glanville (Virgin, hardback, £16.99)
- 2 *Wilson Cricketers' Almanack*, Australia 1998, (Hodder Grant Books, hardback, £19.99)
- 3 *Thirteen Grand: The Gambler As Hero*, Jonathan Rendell (New York: paper, £10)
- 4 *Playing for Keeps - Michael Jordan and The World He Made*, David Halberstam, (Random House USA, hardback, £24.50)
- 5 *Made in London: Square Ball since 1989* (Square Ball, paperback, £5.95)
- 6 *Best American Sports Writing 1998*, edited by Bill Litzler (Houghton Mifflin, paperback, £6.99)
- 7 *The Davis Cup - Celebrating 100 Years of International Tennis*, David Evans (Ebury Press, hardback, £14.99)
- 8 *Celebrating 70: Mark McGuire's historic season*, (The Sporting News, paperback, £16.95)
- 9 *Angry White Pygmies*, Robert Twigger (Jingo, paperback, £6.99)
- 10 *Michael Schumacher: The Road to Redemption*, James Allen (Partridge Press, hardback, £16.99)

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John Roberts on the growing pressures that face Britain's two world-class tennis players

WORD IS that the Coldstream Guards may be on the point of setting up home in Battersea power station. We trust, however, that Tim Henman and Greg Rusedski will remain perfectly capable of taking care of themselves, come hype or high water.

The second edition of "indoor tennis in the park" (in a smart temporary arena to be precise) gets underway today at the British Tennis Site, which ought to be a good omen. Henman and Rusedski, seeded No 2 and No 3 respectively, are drawn to meet in the semi-finals of the £815,000 (£510,000) Guardian Direct Cup. They are also due to play doubles together, with the Davis Cup tie against the United States at Easter in mind.

Rusedski regrets that he was unable to keep an appointment with Henman yesterday in the final of the ATP Tour event in Rotterdam, but he ran into Yevgeny Kafelnikov, the Australian Open champion, in the semi-finals and was outplayed by the Russian.

Still, losing 6-4, 6-2 after only 57 minutes to an opponent ranked No 2 in the world was a vast improvement on some of Rusedski's performances of late. Ditto Henman, who found Kafelnikov too hot in the final, which the Russian won, 6-2, 7-6.

At this point, it may be prudent for your correspondent to pause for thought.

Jean-Paul Loth, a former French Davis Cup captain turned television commentator, once ventured a suggestion to Britain's tennis reporters. "Don't be so hard on your players," he said, "you kill them."

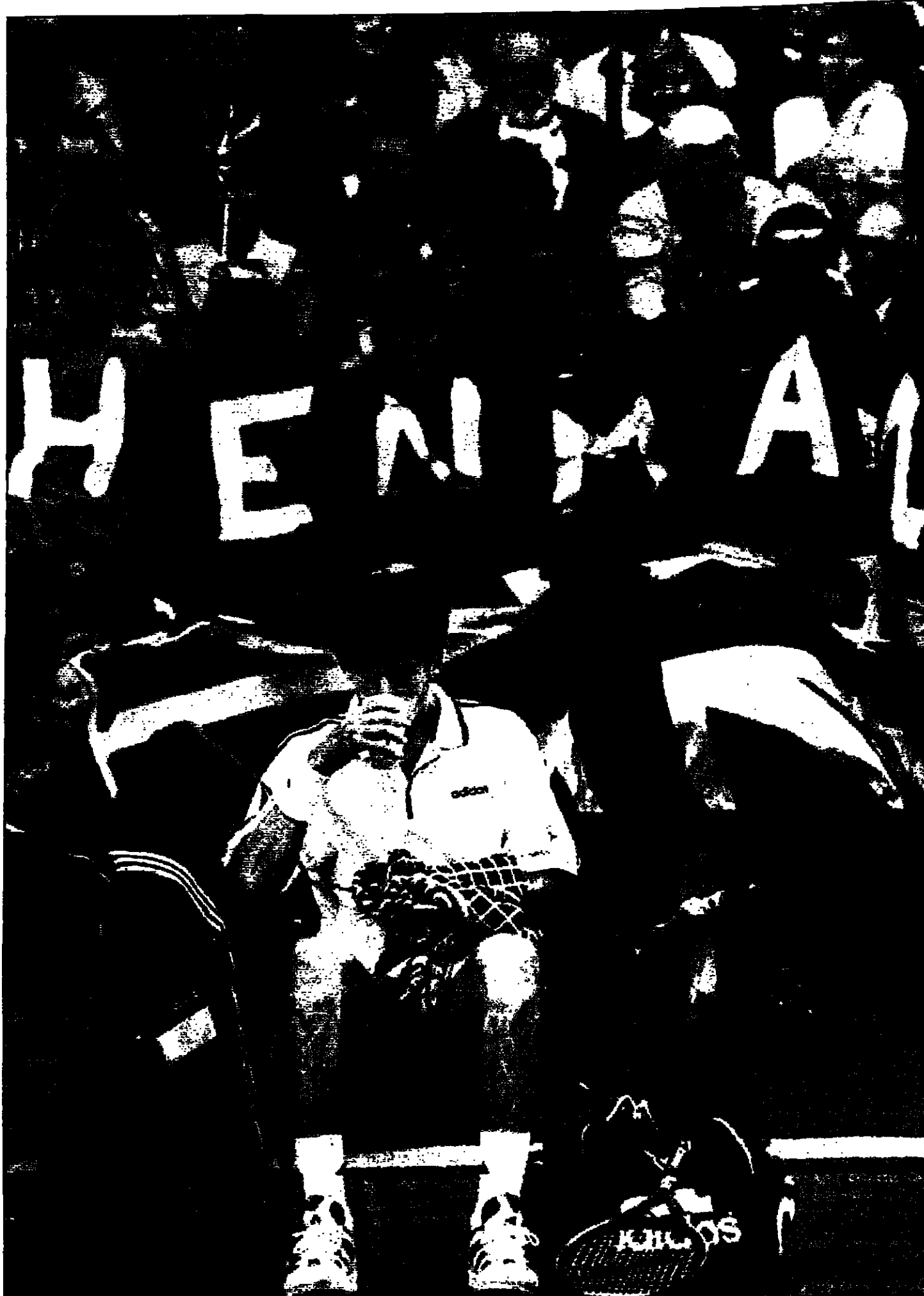
That was in 1990, after Britain had been white-washed 5-0 in a World Group promotion play-off at Queen's Club, London, by a French team destined for glory. "It is so important to build confidence," Loth added, "not only for the players now, but for those behind."

It took nearly a decade for "those players behind" to materialise - or at least for the nation to be blessed with two. Rusedski's arrival from Canada and Henman's emergence from Oxford has brought a rare gloss to the British game, one so delicate, however, that the Frenchman's advice is worth repeating.

There is more than one way to skin a tennis player. In the past, scorn was heaped on a generation of Britons because they were never going to be good enough to mix it with the best in the world. Now the novelty of seeing two men rise to the top 10 and display the potential to win a Grand Slam title - perhaps even Wimbledon - has created the peril of suffocation by expectation. David Lloyd, Britain's Davis Cup captain, recognises the danger, but is not unduly worried about the top two. "I think the better you get the more people are going to say: 'Oh, bloody hell, they should have called that week,'" Lloyd said. "In a way, Tim and Greg have made a rod for their own back in being so good in a country that at the moment, to be quite honest, is not as good as it should be."

The lack of reinforcements troubles Lloyd. "You've got Tim and Greg, who are world class - but for how long? And after that? To be honest it is not a healthy picture at the moment, and we've got to put it right. We've got two great players, and we've got to be feeding off them, and at the moment we're not."

Before moving indoors to play on a fast carpet court in Rotterdam, Henman and Rusedski - particularly Rusedski - were finding it difficult to reproduce the impressive form that elevated both to a position



Britain's Tim Henman has the country behind him but the stresses of fulfilling a nation's hopes can have a reverse effect PA

among the elite last year and also restored Britain to the 16-strong World Group of the Davis Cup. Henman did reach the final of his first tournament of the season, on a medium pace concrete court in Qatar, where he was defeated by an inspired German qualifier, Rainer

"Tim and Greg have made a rod for their own back in being so good in a country that is not as good as it should be"

Schuttler. But then came a major disappointment on the rubberised concrete at the Australian Open, where Henman lost in straight sets in the third round to the Swiss Marc Rosset, with the year's first Grand Slam wide open.

A trip to Dubai helped restore

Henman's spirits. A first-round loser on his two previous visits, he advanced to the quarter-finals after a resilient performance against Sweden's Jonas Bjorkman. Henman was subsequently defeated, 7-6, 7-5, by the French left-hander Jerome Golmard, who went on to halve his world ranking of No 61 by beating Carlos Moya, the French Open champion, in the semi-finals en route to winning the title.

Rusedski's astonishing capitulation in the second round in Dubai after leading his 30-year-old Spanish opponent, Francisco Clavet, by a set and 3-0 with two service breaks, compounded a worrying start to the year by the British No 2. Having worked hard on his physical fitness in preparation for the Australian Open - perhaps too hard, judging by his lacklustre performance when outplayed by Paul Goldstein, an America qualifier, in the second round - Rusedski went to Dubai early, and departed early.

A first-round win in straight sets

against Sjeng Schalken, the Dutch No 2, contained several tentative games by Rusedski, when serving and also when receiving. He wore a support for his lower back ("just for comfort") and was experimenting with a new racket ("just trying it out").

In losing to Clavet, Rusedski had his famous serve broken seven times in nine attempts and delivered only two aces. And this when faced with a pile of world ranking points to defend, particularly next month in Indian Wells, California, where he was defeated in the final by Marcelo Rios last year, having delivered the fastest serve ever recorded on the ATP Tour (149 mph).

There was a strong temptation to dust off that old standby, "What's gone wrong with...?"

"Tim and Greg are going to have ups and downs," Lloyd said. "They're going to have some bad weeks. It's going to happen. They're still learning their trade. We all have bad days. The thing that would

worry me is if they came in for an after-match interview and said: 'I couldn't really care less'. That's not the point. They're trying their butts off. They haven't lost their keenness. They're still confident."

"Overall this year I'm very confident they'll both be in the top 10."

"You have to be careful in calling it unspectacular. Because they're both in the top 10 you expect them to win every week"

and higher than they are now. I think either could win a major - I think both could win a major. If you take the French Open [played on clay, the slowest surface] out of the equation, I wouldn't bet against them in any of the majors."

Jeremy Bates' baggage was

never packed with such high expectations in all the years he toured the tennis circuit, virtually as Britain's lone ranger. Bates had his moments, however. He became Britain's first winner of a men's tour event for 17 years at Seoul in 1994, he twice advanced to the fourth round at Wimbledon, and he numbered John McEnroe and Boris Becker among his conquests in the latter stages of his career.

He only wishes his game had been propelled by a strong British rivalry like the one between Henman and Rusedski. "It would have helped me," Bates said. "I would much rather have been ranked 10 in Britain if I was ranked 50 in the world all my career."

Nowadays Bates's experience is harnessed to the elusive quest for a general improvement in standards as the Lawn Tennis Association's manager of men's national training.

Playing devil's advocate, I sought his reaction to Henman's and Rusedski's unspectacular start to the year. "I think you have to be careful in some senses in calling it unspectacular," Bates said. "Because they're both in the top 10, you expect them to win things every week."

"OK, I think the Australian Open was an opportunity, certainly, for Tim to do better than he did. He would agree with that as well. There's been a couple of opportunities he's had over the past couple of years where he has been the best player left in [a tournament], and maybe we've expected a bit more of him, and those opportunities have been missed. So that's probably where the disappointment stems from more than anything. But in terms of his overall start to the year, and his game, I think he's a far better player than he was this time last year."

"I think Greg has probably had a bit of a tougher start to the year, but he had some good wins in Rotterdam. I really think you have to keep it in perspective. They've only played three or four tournaments. Greg's been working on a lot of things in his game. He's also got engaged. I know he's had that on the back of his mind."

The new Donnay racket that Rusedski has been testing appears remarkably similar to the Wilson he wielded with such ferocity. The red, white and blue paintwork adds a patriotic touch, but, in a sport demanding a mental edge, it is possible that a change of weapon may exact a psychological toll, even if the feel and balance seem identical.

Leading players down all the years have been tempted to change rackets, in some cases to improve performance, in others to swell bank accounts, occasionally to accomplish both.

"Rocket" Rod Laver once tried an aluminium Chemsad, but struggled for his customary lift-off until reaching for a disguised Dunlop. Boris Becker sported a new racket logo, but admitted that Estuza were producing the Puma frames fundamental to his game. Martina Navratilova temporarily forsook Yonex, convinced that she could only out-hit Steffi Graf if she obtained the Dunlop racket then used by the German. John McEnroe imagined he could put more power in his elbow by borrowing a couple of Head rackets from a practice partner, Goran Ivanisevic, on the eve of Wimbledon. A first-round defeat by Derrick Rostagno persuaded McEnroe otherwise, and he returned to the Dunlop with which he once dominated the game.

There was also the bizarre case of Rip van Borg, the player who did not change his racket in the face of a technological revolution. Almost a decade after retiring with five consecutive Wimbledon titles to his name, Bjorg Borg made an abortive comeback to the Tour, still using his old wooden Donnay. Apart from his shortcomings in terms of match fitness, this was akin to pitting a longbow against bazookas.

Rusedski, whatever else, is emphatically a bazooka man.

THE WEEK AHEAD: MAIN EVENTS

TODAY

FOOTBALL: FA's Football Committee, which includes Peter St. John, will meet at 10.30am to discuss the future of the game.

TENNIS: Tim Henman and Greg Rusedski will begin in Battersea for the second year, they will also play a doubles pair with an eye on the forthcoming Davis Cup against the United States. Peter Korda makes his first appearance in Britain since the revelation that he was a drug addict at Wimbledon last year. He will meet Yevgeny Kafelnikov, who will renew hostilities with No 2 seed Henman.

TOMORROW

FOOTBALL: Assuming that FA has not made any ridiculous rulings in the interim, the Arsenal Wenger Sporting Gesture of the Decade FA Cup replay between Arsenal and Sheffield United will go ahead at Highbury. Will the football gods reward sportsmanlike or have they something more perverse in mind? The Highbury side (and their supporters) were given a good account of themselves at 1-1 in the first match before the controversial goal by Owen, but the Gunners are likely to find a stronger side this time and are in ominous form after Saturday's 5-0 demolition of Leicester and Notts County's last trip.

RACING: Sedgemoor racecourse stages its first meeting since last week's tragic accident, in which three spectators were killed.

WEDNESDAY

FOOTBALL: Three "real" FA Cup replays. Alan Shearer leads Newcastle's attack back to his old stomping ground at Everton Park to face Brian Kidd's Blackburn Rovers. With both teams suffering recent defeats, the cup assumes even greater importance and an opportunity to briefly forget uncertain league performances. Incredibly, Blackburn have slipped to 17th position. This looks a likely contender for extra time. George Gribben, having secured a Wokingham Cup Final place at Wembley for Tottenham, faces his former team, Leeds United, and former pupil, David O'Leary. Having drawn 1-1 at Elland Road, Graham will now face his chance of returning to Yorkshire to confront Barnsley in the quarter-finals. In the third replay Huddersfield will face on Jim Smith's Derby County with more than an outside chance of an upset and final place at Wembley for Tottenham, who at Pride Park on Saturday, but the first opportunity may have disappeared in the first match which ended 2-2 at the Millennium Stadium. County, with a decent Cup run long overdue, will be looking to cash in on home advantage and move into the last eight.

GOLF: The World Golf Championship, worth £650,000 to the winner, starts in California. The winner of the world's top 64 players, this innovative tournament is designed to become one of the high spots of the golfing calendar. Look out for Tiger Woods against Nick Faldo in the first round and, hopefully, Lee Westwood playing Greg Norman in the second.

SATURDAY

RACING: A big day for Cheltenham Festival and Grand National. The latter is an important and prestigious trial being run at Goodwood Park and Haydock. The £60,000 Racing Post Chase features last year's winner, Super Saver, as well as the favourite, Dr Lurch, and the consistent, Dr Lurch, who missed the first round. The £25,000 Grand National Trial Chase at Haydock Park, the track where he runs and jumps better than anywhere else.

RUGBY UNION: The Telford Bitter Cup quarter-finals. Richmond face the competition favourites, Leicester, while Gloucester play Harlequins in an eagerly awaited encounter. Will Carling, the former England captain, who missed Harlequins' 31-20 league victory over Gloucester (when Richard Hill was still in charge) on 13 February is in line for a place in the starting line-up at what has been a lucky ground for him over the years. The remaining two ties, Newcastle v Saracens and Wasps v London Irish, are played on Sunday.

RUGBY LEAGUE: Challenge Cup fifth round. Leeds v St Helens. Having disposed of Wigan in the first round in a tie worthy of the final, Leeds have drawn another Super League side. The winner of this match will undoubtedly be the bookmakers' favourites to take the trophy. The Leeds coach, Graham Murray, is confident that Eddy Harey is equally bullish about his side's chances.

TODAY

TENNIS: 14.10-14.45 BBC2 Sporting Greats Geoff Capes, shot-punter and possibly the largest man in the history of British sport, talks to Eamonn Holmes.

14.45-15.30 BBC2 Match of the Day Garth Crooks meets Len St John, the former Liverpool player turned Newcastle striker. I wonder if they'll mention the Anfield banner "Jesus loves" that was amended to "...but St John scores from the rebound".

00.35-04.00 CS Live and Dangerous All-night sports magazine.

00.40-01.40 (times vary slightly across the regions) ITV Football Extra Nationwide round-up.

SATURDAY

TENNIS: 14.10-14.45 BBC2 Tennis More from Battersea.

14.10-14.45 BBC2 Modern Times Bowles Master Lorie Barry Dennis, a larger-than-life character, tells us the main attraction of this examination of the business of taking sunbathers' money.

22.40-23.40 ITV Football Highlights from the FA Cup fifth round. The main match will vary according to region.

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TUESDAY

TENNIS: 14.10-14.45, 15.30-16.00 BBC2 Tennis Action from the first round of the ATP Tour.

THE WEEK AHEAD: SPORT ON TELEVISION

TODAY

TENNIS: 14.10-14.45 BBC2 Sporting Greats Geoff Capes, shot-punter and possibly the largest man in the history of British sport, talks to Eamonn Holmes.

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TENNIS: 14.10-16.00 CA Racing In the run-up to the Cheltenham Festival, a double-header from Wincanton and Huntingdon. The 2.35 and 3.10 at the former will provide the day's best cues to the Gold Cup and Championship Hurdle.

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21.30-22.30 BBC1 Playing The Field Last week, in the first episode of the second series of Ray Weller's comedy-drama about a women's football team based on Peter Davies' book *I Lost My Heart To The Doncaster Belles*, there wasn't much football (the only sporting action involved an England international snogging round the back of a pub). This one's much the same, apparently.

22.30-22.50 BBC1 They Think It's All Over Reported

00.10-04.00 CS Live and Dangerous

00.45-02.15 (times vary slightly according to region) ITV Soccer First day's play from the Liverpool Victoria Challenge in Derby. It draws on the sport's onetime regime, with Steve Davis, Jimmy White, John Parrott and Dennis Taylor competing for a £100,000 prize to the charity of their choice.

FRIDAY

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CHRIS MAUME

SPORT ON THE INTERNET

ANDY OLDFIELD



**BRITISH
CANOE
UNION**

QUESTIONNAIRE

ERIC HALL, AGENT

**What's the
for a bottle
About £3**

The modern sense of "trainer" or "instructor" had its origins in 19th century Hungarian student slang, the idea being that the scholars were conveyed or guided through their exams by the tutor as if being driven in a carriage. ("Manager" has a similar connotation, by the way, coming from the Latin for "to handle", but was first used to describe the idea of training horses rather than humans.) Let us hope Kevin Keegan is not going to drive a coach and horses through the manual.

CHRIS MAUME

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League's Chester Jets v Newcastle Eagles (7.30).

BIRTHDAYS

Today: Michael Chang, American tennis player (born 1972); Niki Lauda, Austrian racing driver (1949).
Wednesday: Brian Cox, English cricketer (1931); Denis Law, Scottish footballer (1940); Alain Prost, French racing driver (1955).
Thursday: Paul Elvstrom, Danish yachtsman (1928); Herb Elliott, Australian athlete (1938); Don Quarmie, Jamaican athlete (1951).
Saturday: Graeme Pollock, South African cricketer (1944).
Sunday: Peter Allen, BBC golf commentator (1931); Barry McGuigan, Ulster boxer (1951).

ANNIVERSARIES

Today: Portsmouth 0 Newcastle 2 – the first League game under floodlights (1956). Kenny Dalglish resigned as Liverpool manager (1991).

Tomorrow: Major Walter Clouston Wingfield patented his game of "Sphairistike", which later became known as lawn tennis (1874).

Wednesday: Bobby Moore died of cancer (1993).

Thursday: Cassius Clay beat Sonny Liston to become world heavyweight champion (1964).

Friday: Lottory won the first Grand National, then known as the Grand Liverpool Steeplechase (1835).

Sunday: Colin Milburn died suddenly (1990).

SUNDAY

FOOTBALL: FA Carling Premiership (6.0); Newcastle v Arsenal. Nationwide League First Division (1.0); Crystal Palace v Barnsley. Scottish Premier League (6.05); Kilmarnock Rangers.

RUGBY UNION: Trefgar's Seltzer Cup quarter-final: Newcastle v Saracens (2.0); Wasps v London Irish (3.0).

RUGBY LEAGUE: Six Nations Challenge Cup first round: Widnes v Leigh (3.0); Hull KR v London Broncos (3.0); Wakefield v Bradford (3.0); Huddersfield v Salford (3.0); Warrington v Halifax (3.0); Whitehaven v Oldham (3.0).

BASKETBALL: Bundesliga League: Newcastle Jets v Newcastle Eagles (7.30).

Fumble in the fly-half factory



This has coincided with a search of talent in the position for which Welsh rugby is most famous. Not since Jonathan Davies has there been anyone of outside half who could be spoken of in the same breath as Barry John, Phil Bennett or Cliff Morgan.

That is not to saddle Jenkins with the sole responsibility. Only to wish God had provided him with better legs.

IRELAND: C O'Shea; J Bishop (both London Instn); R Maggs (Bath); J Bell (Dun-gannon); N Woods (London Irish); D Cunningham (Dungannon); C McCauley (St Mary's College); P Clohesy (Young Munster); R Wood (Harlequins); P Wallace; P Johns (both Saracens, capt); J Davidson (Castres); D O'Connell (Sale); M Miller (Terenure College); A Ward (Ballynahinch).

Representatives: V Costello (St Mary's College) for Miller; 67; J Fitzpatrick (Dungannon) for Clohesy; 67; M Gahway (Shannon) for Johns. 79.

Referee: S Young (Australia).

هكذا من الأصل

Whitehaven's timeless win

THIS WAS the sort of afternoon that used to make teams from the soft south beyond Lancaster dread their trips to west Cumbria.

Whitehaven encountered a crash on the M6, rain, sleet and finally hail that stung like nettles - and worst of all yesterday a Whitehaven side that gave them no peace throughout the match.

Give or take a few rule changes, this was a game that could have taken place during any of Whitehaven's 50 seasons at the Recreation Ground, with a big pack going about its business in the traditional Cumbrian manner, in front of two enterprising half-backs.

Whitehaven had made an encouraging start to their season - and, like Whitehaven, have a highly winnable Challenge Cup tie to look forward to next weekend - but they were never allowed into this game as equal partners.

They did take the lead,

BY DAVID HADFIELD

Whitehaven 28
Widnes 6

though, midway through an old-fashioned arm-wrestle of a first half, through Jim Salisbury's penalty.

They soon fell behind, however, when Craig Walsh cut in from his wing and fought a little kick over the defence which was picked off by Wayne Kitchen for the game's first try, converted by Kevin Hetherington.

Another clever kick was responsible for putting Widnes level by half-time. Paul Harris this time spotting the empty acres on the right and James Briers reaching the ball first, but Whitehaven shut the door firmly in their face after the interval.

Their outstanding back-row forwards, Graeme Morton and Gary Charlton, set up Walsh for one try, after both Morton and

Walsh had seen one disallowed and the result was never in doubt after that.

After Salisbury put a kick-off straight into touch for the second time in the match and Leroy Joe had a drop goal attempt charged down to give his side more time, Salisbury himself dived his way through for the try that ensured there was no way back.

In the last 10 minutes, Whitehaven struck twice more through Morton and their inventive stand-off, Lee Kiddie. On this form they can be a force in the Northern Premier League this season, as well as difficult opponents for Oldham and whoever might come next in the Challenge Cup.

Whitehaven: Hetherington, Leaver, Seale, Lynch, Walsh, Kiddie, Joe, Charlton, Morton, Salisbury, Briers, Crichton, Myler, Morton, Morrison, Dwyer, Hansen, Charlton, Mann, Harris, Briers, Salisbury. Substitutes: Farrow, Reid, Cross, Argent. Referee: P. Taberner (Wigan).



Martin Wood shows great determination during Keighley's 14-12 defeat at Bramley yesterday

Ben Duffy

Reading pay for Scottish slip-up

HOCKEY

BY BILL COLWILL

READING YESTERDAY ended their challenge in the B Division of the European Indoor Club Championship in Prague with a 6-4 win against Partille from Sweden. A second Mark Pearn hat-trick brought the Premier Division club a disappointing fifth place which condemns the English champions, Southgate, to another year in the B Division.

The damage was done on Saturday when Reading surrendered a three-goal lead to lose 5-3 to Scotland's Menzies, who went on to win the final 3-2 after a penalty stroke shoot-out following a 1-1 draw with Dynamo Ekaterinburg from Russia.

The Spanish club Atletico Terrassa beat Duxheim from Germany 9-7 in the A Division final to become the first non-German club to win the European championship.

Bobby Crutchley scored twice as Cannock came from behind against Canterbury to win 4-2 and so extend their lead at the top of the men's Premier Division to five points. The 17-year-old Martin Jones capped a fine display with his first National League goal.

As Reading's chance of promotion to the A Division evaporated on Saturday, Mark Hoskin flew to Manchester to play and score for Guildford in their 4-3 win against Brooklands. The victory keeps alive their chance of making the top four play-off places.

In the Women's National League Jane Smith scored six times for Slough in their 9-1 victory at Doncaster to keep the defending champions in second place.

No armchair ride for gutsy Couch

JANE COUCH successfully defended her Women's International welterweight title with a unanimous points decision over the Dutch challenger Marischa Sjaauw at the Thornaby Pavilion in Middlesbrough on Saturday.

In doing so, Britain's only professional female boxer also claimed the vacant World Boxing Federation title, but of greater significance was the quality of the overall performance. Women's boxing needed the two fighters to put on a good show to convince the

BOXING

BY NICK HALLING

doubters: Couch and Sjaauw obliged with a spirited display over 10 rounds which was well received by a crowd of 1,200.

It was in sharp contrast to Couch's British debut against the German teenager Simone Lukic last November. That was a farce, but this was a real battle. Couch bled heavily from a cut on the hairline after a clash of heads, and both women were exhausted from their efforts.

"This is what all my fights are like, except for that last one," said the 31-year-old from Fleetwood in Lancashire. "It's always a war - I never seem to have it easy. She was much stronger than me but I did enough to deserve the decision. Holding on to my title means more to me than anything."

Neither boxer was unable to establish any dominance at first, but by the ninth they had virtually punched themselves to a standstill. Couch holding her nerve to survive a testing finale. Many of the crowd had come

to experience the novelty of female boxing. In the end, they showed their appreciation of two highly motivated, well-trained athletes.

In the United States, Mike Tyson was put in an isolation cell after throwing a television in his cell on Saturday night. Tyson, 32, was imprisoned for a year earlier this month for assaulting two women after a traffic accident.

Roberto Duran, 48, has had his latest fight cancelled because he weighed in for his contest with Argentina's Omar Gonzalez 6kg over the limit.

Myers strikes for Sharks

BASKETBALL

BY RICHARD TAYLOR

SHEFFIELD SHARKS moved into last month's 86-83 win at Manchester City after a 10-0 second quarter put them 36-22 ahead.

Manchester briefly took a clear lead in the table with Saturday's 86-78 win over Birmingham Bulls, pulling away in the fourth quarter with 7-1 and 7-3 runs after Bulls led 71-70 with three minutes to play.

Sheffield and Giants now have identical records, with 26 wins from 29 games, although the Sharks hold a 1-0 edge in

their three-game series after last month's 86-83 win at Manchester. They each have home advantage in the two remaining league games between them.

Working Bears managed to break a 90-game losing streak and took their first victory under coach Sean Loucks, with an 84-77 home win over Milton Keynes Lions.

Leicester's hangover following their midweek League Trophy semi-final defeat against Derby continued with a 90-78 home collapse against Edinburgh Rocks.

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SPORTING DIGEST

ATHLETICS

SYDNEY GRAND PRIX Selected: Men: 110m hurdles: 1 C Jackson (GB) 13.30; 2 R Bailey (GB) 13.65; Women: 400m: 1 C Freeman (AUS) 50.75; 2 A Curbishley (GB) 51.55; Pole vault: 1 E George (AUS) 4.10m (two) record; 3 R Martin (AUS) 46.05; 2 S Waino (GB) 46.27; 3,000m: 1 H Gebreselasse (ETH) 8.50; 2 S Waino (GB) 8.55; 5,000m: 1 S Pines (AUS) 16.40; 10,000m: 1 S Pines (AUS) 33.40; 20,000m: 1 S Pines (AUS) 66.40; 30,000m: 1 S Pines (AUS) 99.40; 40,000m: 1 S Pines (AUS) 132.40; 50,000m: 1 S Pines (AUS) 165.40; 60,000m: 1 S Pines (AUS) 198.40; 70,000m: 1 S Pines (AUS) 231.40; 80,000m: 1 S Pines (AUS) 264.40; 90,000m: 1 S Pines (AUS) 297.40; 100,000m: 1 S Pines (AUS) 330.40; 110,000m: 1 S Pines (AUS) 363.40; 120,000m: 1 S Pines (AUS) 396.40; 130,000m: 1 S Pines (AUS) 429.40; 140,000m: 1 S Pines (AUS) 462.40; 150,000m: 1 S Pines (AUS) 495.40; 160,000m: 1 S Pines (AUS) 528.40; 170,000m: 1 S Pines (AUS) 561.40; 180,000m: 1 S Pines (AUS) 594.40; 190,000m: 1 S Pines (AUS) 627.40; 200,000m: 1 S Pines (AUS) 660.40; 210,000m: 1 S Pines (AUS) 693.40; 220,000m: 1 S Pines (AUS) 726.40; 230,000m: 1 S Pines (AUS) 759.40; 240,000m: 1 S Pines (AUS) 792.40; 250,000m: 1 S Pines (AUS) 825.40; 260,000m: 1 S Pines (AUS) 858.40; 270,000m: 1 S Pines (AUS) 891.40; 280,000m: 1 S Pines (AUS) 924.40; 290,000m: 1 S Pines (AUS) 957.40; 300,000m: 1 S Pines (AUS) 990.40; 310,000m: 1 S Pines (AUS) 1023.40; 320,000m: 1 S Pines (AUS) 1056.40; 330,000m: 1 S Pines (AUS) 1089.40; 340,000m: 1 S Pines (AUS) 1122.40; 350,000m: 1 S Pines (AUS) 1155.40; 360,000m: 1 S Pines (AUS) 1188.40; 370,000m: 1 S Pines (AUS) 1221.40; 380,000m: 1 S Pines (AUS) 1254.40; 390,000m: 1 S Pines (AUS) 1287.40; 400,000m: 1 S Pines (AUS) 1320.40; 410,000m: 1 S Pines (AUS) 1353.40; 420,000m: 1 S Pines (AUS) 1386.40; 430,000m: 1 S Pines (AUS) 1419.40; 440,000m: 1 S Pines (AUS) 1452.40; 450,000m: 1 S Pines (AUS) 1485.40; 460,000m: 1 S Pines (AUS) 1518.40; 470,000m: 1 S Pines (AUS) 1551.40; 480,000m: 1 S Pines (AUS) 1584.40; 490,000m: 1 S Pines (AUS) 1617.40; 500,000m: 1 S Pines (AUS) 1650.40; 510,000m: 1 S Pines (AUS) 1683.40; 520,000m: 1 S Pines (AUS) 1716.40; 530,000m: 1 S Pines (AUS) 1749.40; 540,000m: 1 S Pines (AUS) 1782.40; 550,000m: 1 S Pines (AUS) 1815.40; 560,000m: 1 S Pines (AUS) 1848.40; 570,000m: 1 S Pines (AUS) 1881.40; 580,000m: 1 S Pines (AUS) 1914.40; 590,000m: 1 S Pines (AUS) 1947.40; 600,000m: 1 S Pines (AUS) 1980.40; 610,000m: 1 S Pines (AUS) 2013.40; 620,000m: 1 S Pines (AUS) 2046.40; 630,000m: 1 S Pines (AUS) 2079.40; 640,000m: 1 S Pines (AUS) 2112.40; 650,000m: 1 S Pines (AUS) 2145.40; 660,000m: 1 S Pines (AUS) 2178.40; 670,000m: 1 S Pines (AUS) 2211.40; 680,000m: 1 S Pines (AUS) 2244.40; 690,000m: 1 S Pines (AUS) 2277.40; 700,000m: 1 S Pines (AUS) 2310.40; 710,000m: 1 S Pines (AUS) 2343.40; 720,000m: 1 S Pines (AUS) 2376.40; 730,000m: 1 S Pines (AUS) 2409.40; 740,000m: 1 S Pines (AUS) 2442.40; 750,000m: 1 S Pines (AUS) 2475.40; 760,000m: 1 S Pines (AUS) 2508.40; 770,000m: 1 S Pines (AUS) 2541.40; 780,000m: 1 S Pines (AUS) 2574.40; 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2,760,000m: 1 S Pines (AUS) 9108.40; 2,770,000m: 1 S Pines (AUS) 9141.40; 2,780,000m: 1 S Pines (AUS) 9174.40; 2,790,000m: 1 S Pines (AUS) 9207.40; 2,800,000m: 1 S Pines (AUS) 9240.40; 2,810,000m: 1 S Pines (AUS) 9273.40; 2,820,000m: 1 S Pines (AUS) 9306.40; 2,830,000m: 1 S Pines (AUS) 9339.40; 2,840,000m: 1 S Pines (AUS) 9372.40; 2,850,000m: 1 S Pines (AUS) 9405.40; 2,860,000m: 1 S Pines (AUS) 9438.40; 2,870,000m: 1 S Pines (AUS) 9471.40; 2,880,000m: 1 S Pines (AUS) 9504.40; 2,890,000m: 1 S Pines (AUS) 9537.40; 2,900,000m: 1 S Pines (AUS) 9570.40; 2,910,000m: 1 S Pines (AUS) 9603.40; 2,920,000m: 1 S Pines (AUS) 9636.40; 2,930,000m: 1 S Pines (AUS) 9669.40; 2,940,000m: 1 S Pines (AUS) 9702.40; 2,950,000m: 1 S Pines (AUS) 9735.40; 2,960,000m: 1 S Pines (AUS) 9768.40; 2,970,000

Teeton puts the heat on Florida

AS VENETIA WILLIAMS conducted interviews following Teeton Mill's victory at Ascot on Saturday there were flecks of the great horse's grey hair obvious on her black blazer. Over in Co Kilkenny, another trainer was probably sprouting similar material on his head.

Willie Mullins, the man behind Teeton Mill's Irish counterpart, Florida Pearl, watched the Ascot Chase on television while racing at Gowran Park. He resisted the temptation to throw a brick through the screen.

Mullins now knows, the Irish nation knows, that their noble fencer will have to be exceptional if he is to win the Gold Cup at the foot of Prestbury hill three weeks on Thursday. And if Florida Pearl can indeed beat Teeton Mill he may well approach the level of animal he is reported to be after several creamy ales in the Republic.

"On what we saw yesterday you'd have to be very afraid of Teeton Mill," Mullins said. "It was a tremendous performance, galloping everything into the ground. Teeton Mill grabbed the race by the scruff of the neck and never let go. He had it won a long way out."

When Teeton Mill and Florida Pearl duked between the ropes and touch gloves for the first time at the Festival next month they will do so in front of some minds which believe that one, maybe even both of them, will not go the distance. Some saw a touch of the dilute in the way the Irish horse sauntered when hitting the front at Leopardstown recently. And there were those on Saturday who considered that Teeton Mill exhibited so much speed that his staying power must now be questioned.

But if both our gladiators have stamina as well as pace in their already well-stocked arsenals then this could be a Blue Riband to cherish. Arkle and Mill House, the previous great Anglo-Irish bout, may be downgraded to the undercard.

BY RICHARD EDMONDSON

"To win a Gold Cup you need to have speed and to stay," Mullins added yesterday. "Top-class horses have to do both. By and large, you have to have a measure of acceleration to win a Gold Cup and I'd certainly rather have it than not."

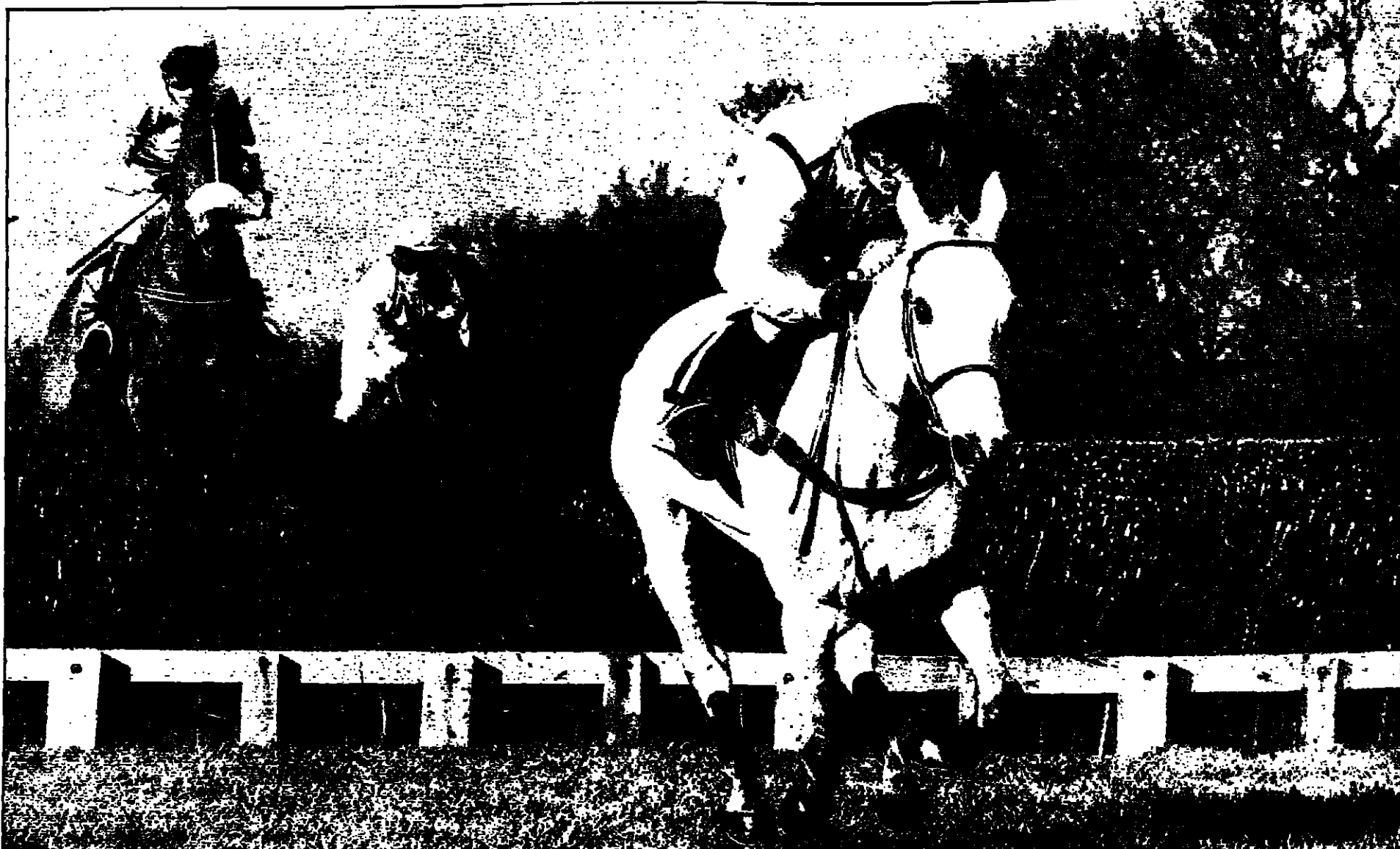
The buds were coming and there was spring in the air at Ascot on Saturday. There was spring also in the legs of Teeton Mill. He was not as poorly as some people have made out.

That said, it was by deed more than appearance that he set himself apart. In the paddock he looked a little woolly and docile, something to make a good jumper out of rather than being a good jumper himself.

As soon as the blood was up it was a different tale, a slashing stride propelling the grey so quickly that his ears appeared to be bending back like reeds in the Berkshire breeze. Teeton Mill sees no peril in fences. He accelerates into them and then displays slam-dunk jumping, hanging in there before the earth comes up to his hooves.

A pedant might observe that the horse jumped slightly left throughout and, between the last two obstacles, he felt the texture of Norman Williamson's whip as he started to meander gently. By then, though, the meaningful endeavour had been done. "Even when he met one wrong, as he was always going to do at some point, what was so pleasing was that he sorted himself out in company with the specialist speed merchants," Williams said. "He's quick isn't he?"

Teeton Mill's hue is not repulsive to those who try to sell racing, and at Ascot came the realisation that we have been sent an animal to replace One Man, an animal who by looks and performance reaches out to the broader constituency. This is now the must-see horse: Teeton Mill, coming to a racecourse near you soon.

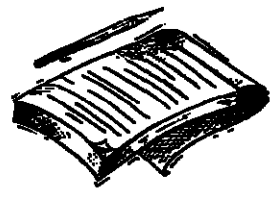


Teeton Mill, under Norman Williamson, bounds away from his rivals in the Ascot Chase on Saturday to strike fear into Florida Pearl's fans

Julian Herbert/Allsport

FOR THE NOTEBOOK

HORSES TO GO ON TO BETTER THINGS



BOOKMAKERS were running scared from a horse named Behrjan yesterday. The perception of cowardice would be enforced by hearing his trainer describe his charge as: "A big, babyish, raw-boned brute. We can't work him with our decent horses at home because he'd just get left behind."

But this four-year-old, whose owners include Lady Lloyd-Webber, is transformed when stepping onto the racecourse stage. He did it again at Warwick on Saturday when humbling a quality field of hurdlers. It was Behrjan's third impressive win.

Many Cheltenham entries get their ante-post odds cut sharply, but Behrjan gained the distinction yesterday of having his price slashed by William Hill for not one, but three, of the Festival's top events - the Triumph Hurdle (8-1 from 14-1), Supreme Novices' (10-1 from 16-1), and the Royal & Sun Alliance Hurdle (10-1 from 20-1).

Behrjan arrived at Henry

the risks of a race notoriously exhausting for young talent. But with Hore La Loi possibly out of the picture, a soft-ground Triumph (2m, 18 March) could yet prove tempting. Alternatively, the 2m5f Sun Alliance could bring out the best in Behrjan. Perhaps significantly, Ladbrokes are quoting Behrjan only for the longer race (10-1 from 16-1).

"Behrjan has certainly got an engine," Daly said yesterday. "But he's still backward. We'll have to see about Cheltenham. He doesn't want to get this wrong."

With doubts over when and where the horse will run, a bet now looks unwise. But... both Ladbrokes and Hills are offering non-runner-money-back terms for Cheltenham Festival multiple bets (doubles and upwards). This offer could be exploited by linking Behrjan at 10-1 for the Sun Alliance, or 8-1 for the Triumph, in a win double with - for instance - Istabraq at 4-7 in the Champion Hurdle.

CHRIS CORRIGAN

Injured Carberry may miss Festival

PAUL CARBERRY sustained a broken collar-bone at Navan yesterday that jeopardises his chances of riding at the Cheltenham Festival.

The jockey took a crashing fall from Wyatt in the handicap chase and was quickly removed to the local hospital for an x-ray examination. Noel Meade, Wyatt's trainer, reported: "It could be a bad break. It's a real shame at this stage."

Carberry's misfortune happened in a race won by Linden's Lott, ridden by Adrian Maguire for the Tony Martin stable, triumphant at Newcastle on Saturday with Holybank Buck.

Carberry had earlier reduced Ruby Walsh's lead at the head of the jockeys' table to five when he took the Boyne Hurdle on Sallie's Girl from Derrymoyne with Len Lango's Birkdale third and Commanche Court last of the four runners.

Although she is entered in three races at the Festival, Sallie's Girl is more likely to stay at home as she needs very testing ground to be effective.

Alexander Prize made an impressive debut in the concluding bumper for Willie Mullins and was immediately nominated for the Cheltenham Festival bumper which the trainer

RICHARD EDMONDSON
Nap: Pennymoor Prince (Fontwell 3.30)
NB: Scrahan Cross (Carlisle 3.50)

FIRST SHOW

Fontwell 4.00	H	L	S	T
Master Phlegm	54	45	even	8.1
Elm Angel	29	72	72	44
Atlantic Mist	52	81	82	72
Holmes Island	81	81	81	81
Ruby Day	81	81	81	81
Wm Walsh	161	161	161	161
Peasebloss	161	81	81	81

Stewards: a quarter the odds, places 1.2
H Wm H. Ladbrokes 5 Starley 7 Kite

FONTWELL

2.00 Mithak
2.30 HOLMIDCLOSE (nap)
3.00 Lady Cricket
3.30 Dancellityoudd

HYPERION
GOING: Good to Soft (Good in places)
Left-hand hurdle course, figure-of-eight chase course.
1m 2m 3m 4m 5m 6m 7m 8m 9m 10m 11m 12m 13m 14m 15m 16m 17m 18m 19m 20m 21m 22m 23m 24m 25m 26m 27m 28m 29m 30m 31m 32m 33m 34m 35m 36m 37m 38m 39m 40m 41m 42m 43m 44m 45m 46m 47m 48m 49m 50m 51m 52m 53m 54m 55m 56m 57m 58m 59m 60m 61m 62m 63m 64m 65m 66m 67m 68m 69m 70m 71m 72m 73m 74m 75m 76m 77m 78m 79m 80m 81m 82m 83m 84m 85m 86m 87m 88m 89m 90m 91m 92m 93m 94m 95m 96m 97m 98m 99m 100m 101m 102m 103m 104m 105m 106m 107m 108m 109m 110m 111m 112m 113m 114m 115m 116m 117m 118m 119m 120m 121m 122m 123m 124m 125m 126m 127m 128m 129m 130m 131m 132m 133m 134m 135m 136m 137m 138m 139m 140m 141m 142m 143m 144m 145m 146m 147m 148m 149m 150m 151m 152m 153m 154m 155m 156m 157m 158m 159m 160m 161m 162m 163m 164m 165m 166m 167m 168m 169m 170m 171m 172m 173m 174m 175m 176m 177m 178m 179m 180m 181m 182m 183m 184m 185m 186m 187m 188m 189m 190m 191m 192m 193m 194m 195m 196m 197m 198m 199m 200m 201m 202m 203m 204m 205m 206m 207m 208m 209m 210m 211m 212m 213m 214m 215m 216m 217m 218m 219m 220m 221m 222m 223m 224m 225m 226m 227m 228m 229m 230m 231m 232m 233m 234m 235m 236m 237m 238m 239m 240m 241m 242m 243m 244m 245m 246m 247m 248m 249m 250m 251m 252m 253m 254m 255m 256m 257m 258m 259m 260m 261m 262m 263m 264m 265m 266m 267m 268m 269m 270m 271m 272m 273m 274m 275m 276m 277m 278m 279m 280m 281m 282m 283m 284m 285m 286m 287m 288m 289m 290m 291m 292m 293m 294m 295m 296m 297m 298m 299m 300m 301m 302m 303m 304m 305m 306m 307m 308m 309m 310m 311m 312m 313m 314m 315m 316m 317m 318m 319m 320m 321m 322m 323m 324m 325m 326m 327m 328m 329m 330m 331m 332m 333m 334m 335m 336m 337m 338m 339m 340m 341m 342m 343m 344m 345m 346m 347m 348m 349m 350m 351m 352m 353m 354m 355m 356m 357m 358m 359m 360m 361m 362m 363m 364m 365m 366m 367m 368m 369m 370m 371m 372m 373m 374m 375m 376m 377m 378m 379m 380m 381m 382m 383m 384m 385m 386m 387m 388m 389m 390m 391m 392m 393m 394m 395m 396m 397m 398m 399m 400m 401m 402m 403m 404m 405m 406m 407m 408m 409m 410m 411m 412m 413m 414m 415m 416m 417m 418m 419m 420m 421m 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Milestone triumph for Tromans

GLYN TROMANS is a good advertisement for cardiac surgery. Since undergoing two operations in 1996 to eradicate an extra valve in his heart, the Coventry Godiva runner has made what he describes as a "major breakthrough", and on Saturday he picked up his first British title to earn himself a place at next month's World Cross-Country Championships in Belfast.

ATHLETICS

BY MIKE ROWBOTTOM
in Nottingham

world event in Northern Ireland on 27-28 March. Behind him, Andrew Pearson and Dominic Bannister claimed the other two automatic qualifying places to form half of a team that will be completed with discretionary choices and announced today.

Britain's leading cross-country runners, Paula Radcliffe and Jon Brown, chose to miss the trials in order to prepare on the other side of the Atlantic. But Tromans, one of four new

champions the trials produced, would not have missed the event for, well, the world. "I felt really good out there today," he said. "I came here knowing I was going to win, even if some others didn't expect it." One of the main reasons for his confidence was the extra time he has had to devote himself to training, having given up his job last September as a lecturer in marketing at a further education college.

"It has made all the difference," he said. "It means I don't have to get up early every morning and sit in sessions in around work." Lottery funding has enabled him to maintain his

pursuit of a potential that was compromised for most of the Nineties by his heart condition. "I had the problem since 1991, although I only had it diagnosed three weeks before the first operation," he said. "When I was out running, four or five times a week I would have to stop and recover from oxygen debt, because my heart rate would go from around 140 a minute to 230 or 230 within a couple of seconds."

"It could happen at any time. It didn't matter how hard I was running. The only thing I could do was to lie down where I was - on the track, or at the roadside - and wait for it to pass. It

was more scary for my family a lot of the time, because I would be late coming back from runs while I waited for my heart rate to stabilise." Two minutes before his operation, it got scary for Tromans too as he was asked to sign a disclaimer form giving the surgeon the right to put in a pacemaker in the event of any problem. "They had to do a welding job to close the extra valve up and it was in the centre of the heart, so if they had burned too deep there might have been permanent damage," he said.

Less than a year after his second operation, he qualified for the World Cross-Country Championships with fourth place in the trials, and in last year's world event at Marakeh he was the top British finisher, in 38th place.

Now he returns - as Warwickshire's first inter-counties champion since the 1970 Commonwealth 10,000m bronze medalist, Dick Taylor, who retains his links with Coventry Godiva and was present in the early spring sunshine to see Tromans - who trains with Taylor's son, Richard - earn his gold.

Tromans needs to be one of the top 10 European finishers in Belfast to maintain his current level of Lottery funding, but the £2,000 he received as runner-up

in the Reebok Cross-Country Challenge, and an extra £1,000 as winner of the Puma Road Rankings, will have helped with the preparation costs.

In the women's 5km event, Angela Mudge produced a strong, front-running display which won her a first British title - that is, if you do not count hill running.

Mudge, a 27-year-old adopted Scot who is working on a PhD in chemistry at Edinburgh University, has twice been British hill-running champion, but her victory on Saturday, ahead of Tara Kryzwicki - daughter of the former West Bromwich Albion and Wales

winger Dick Kryzwicki - and Lucy Wright surprised everyone, including herself.

Last month, after taking part in a cross-country race within the grounds of Stormont Castle, she was not included in a group of 35 likely British contenders who were shown around the world championship course in another part of Belfast. Instead, she went for a two-hour training run.

The inclusion of shorter races at the world championships offered opportunity to two other new champions, Helen Pattinson and Dave Heath, who won the 5km events to earn their Belfast trips.

Hansen conquers nerves

ASHIA HANSEN overcame her nervousness before self-belief prevailed to bring her victory in the triple jump at yesterday's Gaz de France meeting in Lievin.

The world record holder won with a final jump of 14.81 metres, the best in the world this year and 4cm ahead of her main rival, the world outdoor champion, Sarka Kasparikova, who beat her on countback in Birmingham a week ago.

Hansen's first three efforts were no jumps, while her fourth reached only 13.89m. Worse followed when she lost her stride pattern and ran through on the fifth. Her final effort, though, was near-perfect, the third-longest jump of her career.

Halle Gebrselassie and Maria Mutola failed in their world-record attempts at Lievin. Gebrselassie had to settle for 7min 31.25sec in the 3,000m, more than six seconds outside Daniel Komen's record of 7:24.90. In the 800m, Mutola finished in 1:57.06 - the fastest time in the world this season but outside world-record time.

In Australia, Linford Christie underestimated his opposition and paid the price by failing to reach the Botany Bay Gift final in Sydney.

Christie, who won the event in 1997, was handicapped off one metre for the 120m race, but finished only third in his heat and did not qualify for the final. He had to be satisfied with victory in the Australian men's 100 yards championship in 9.22sec.

When a good old punch-up is the icing on the cake

Greg Wood joins the grannies and toddlers on their feet as the referee stands back and battle is joined

THERE ARE many number of evocative noises in the sporting world, from the sound of leather on willow to the ping of a tennis ball hitting the sweet spot. But there is nothing which sums up a sport quite like the thwack of bone on Plexiglass. It is sharp and brutal, the sound of a score being settled or a gauntlet thrown down, and at the Ice House in Cardiff they love nothing more.

Forget the sociologists who claim that violence on the pitch leads to more of the same in the stands. If it were true, the Ice House would have been a smouldering ruin after yesterday's match between Cardiff Devils and the Nottingham Panthers. Instead, the only damage was a thick carpet of cola cans and hot-dog wrappers, the remnants of a roaring afternoon for all the family. Two thousand fans spent the afternoon bouncing chairs and jeers off the rink's low roof, generating an atmosphere which most football teams would kill for.

In ice hockey it seems to be the spectacle which matters as much as the scoreline. The game allegedly has one of the most extensive rule books of any sport, but you could never tell. It tends to be played by large men with stubble and wonky noses, and an overwhelming desire to get to the puck, no matter who or what stands in their way. When they lock and rattle their sticks at the face-off, they are like rutting stags on skates.

And there is no doubting the identity of the Alpha Male in Cardiff's line-up. Ivan Matulik, forward and captain, seemed to spend almost as much time in the sin-bin as he did on the rink. His longest spell in the glass box came after a fight with Jarret Zukiwsky, which appeared to develop for no better reason than that it was already the second period, and we hadn't had a punch-up. Matulik and Zukiwsky traded blows for almost a minute, while two referees and one team-mates watched. Only when they had thumped each other to a standstill did the officials deem it safe to intervene.

For this, Matulik served two consecutive two-minute penalties in the sin-bin, while Zukiwsky left the ice to get his cuts seen to. Penalties, which in theory can be anything from two to 10 minutes, occur frequently, but you have to do something fairly serious to an opponent to get sent off for five minutes or more. The general rule seems to be that so long as he is still breathing, you only get two.

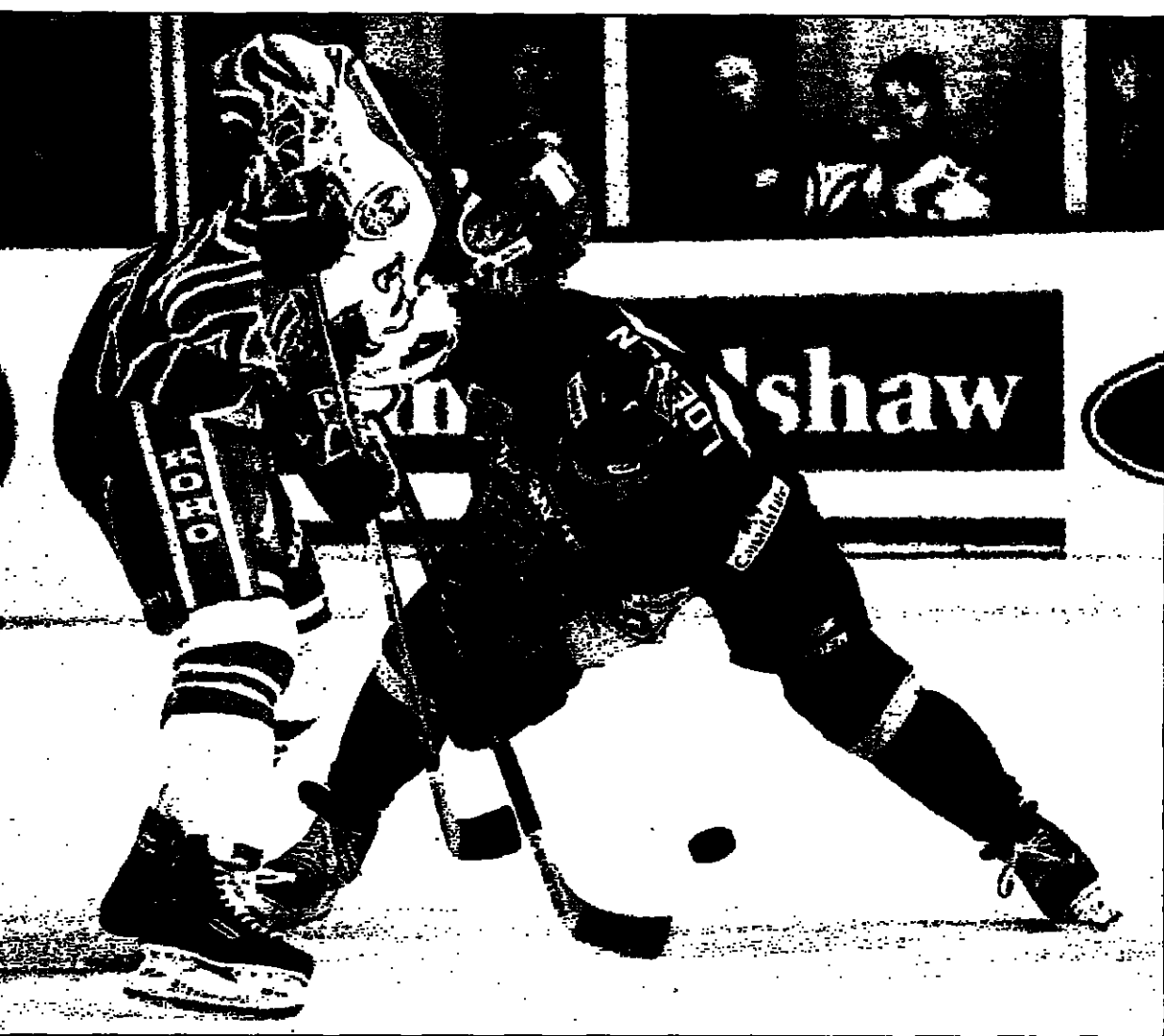
The crowd, meanwhile, loved every second of the scrap. From grannies to toddlers, they were out of their seats, cheering every blow which Matulik landed (there will be a lot of sore throats in Cardiff this morning). Yet as soon as peace had been restored, they went back to their hot dogs. It was, it seemed, just part of the fun, like the brief stashes of bouncy golden oldies which blasted from the sound system to fill every quiet moment.

The match, though, was no laughing matter. Though soon ahead, Cardiff were 2-1 down by the end of the second period. The touch, agility and speed of

the players was breathtaking, especially in view of the mountain of padding strapped to body and limbs, and none played better than Nottingham's Jason Weaver. When he and Jamie Leach worked the

puck out of the corner for Leach to score the second, it was like watching elephants playing chess.

Cardiff were level again early in the third and final period, but a lightning move from four minutes left allowed Graham Garden to score the winner the visitors deserved. The fans yelled the Devils forward, and there were some frantic scrambles in front of the net, but when Matulik



Cardiff's Kip Noble (left) and Nottingham's Darcy Loewen scrap for the puck yesterday

Sacha Miller

CARLISLE

1.50 Barbelito 2.20 Mr Frangipani 2.50 Finewood 3.20 Naughty Future (nb) 3.50 Dovetto 4.20 Sir Bob

INSPECTION: Sam
GOING: Heavy.
■ Right-hand, undulating course.
■ Course is on southern outskirts of town, 4m W of junction 42 of M6. Main service from Carlisle station (see ADDRESS) Club 2.50 (OAPs 5 under-25) 3.20 (OAPs 5 under-25) 3.50 (OAPs 5 under-25) 4.20 (OAPs 5 under-25) 4.50 (OAPs 5 under-25) 5.00 (OAPs 5 under-25) 5.50 (OAPs 5 under-25) 6.00 (OAPs 5 under-25) 6.50 (OAPs 5 under-25) 7.00 (OAPs 5 under-25) 7.50 (OAPs 5 under-25) 8.00 (OAPs 5 under-25) 8.50 (OAPs 5 under-25) 9.00 (OAPs 5 under-25) 9.50 (OAPs 5 under-25) 10.00 (OAPs 5 under-25) 10.50 (OAPs 5 under-25) 11.00 (OAPs 5 under-25) 11.50 (OAPs 5 under-25) 12.00 (OAPs 5 under-25) 12.50 (OAPs 5 under-25) 13.00 (OAPs 5 under-25) 13.50 (OAPs 5 under-25) 14.00 (OAPs 5 under-25) 14.50 (OAPs 5 under-25) 15.00 (OAPs 5 under-25) 15.50 (OAPs 5 under-25) 16.00 (OAPs 5 under-25) 16.50 (OAPs 5 under-25) 17.00 (OAPs 5 under-25) 17.50 (OAPs 5 under-25) 18.00 (OAPs 5 under-25) 18.50 (OAPs 5 under-25) 19.00 (OAPs 5 under-25) 19.50 (OAPs 5 under-25) 20.00 (OAPs 5 under-25) 20.50 (OAPs 5 under-25) 21.00 (OAPs 5 under-25) 21.50 (OAPs 5 under-25) 22.00 (OAPs 5 under-25) 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TENNIS

BY DERRICK WHYTE
in Rotterdam

The British No 1 fought on, taking the second of his break chances to lead 4-2 and then holding serve for a 5-2 advantage, only for Kafelnikov to break back - helped by another

"I'm looking forward to playing in Battersea, it's just 10 minutes from my house so it's a real home event," Henman said. "It's a unique situation to play an indoor tournament in London - everyone's used to us playing on the grass at Wimbledon."

"It's a great atmosphere. I'm

sure it'll be even better than last year, and hopefully, if I play well, I'll be pretty tough to beat. There'll be a lot of really good players in the field, I'm probably stronger than last year. I can play some good tennis like I have over the last six or seven months then I'll have a good

chance."

In Hanover yesterday, the top seed Jana Novotna won a thrilling clash of styles and generations when she beat Venus Williams 6-4 6-4 in the Faber Grand Prix final. The elegant Czech veteran showed more composure when it mattered on her way to a convincing win over the powerful American second seed.

In Memphis on Saturday, Tommy Haas, of Germany, enjoyed a surprise victory over the top seed Todd Martin, 6-3, 7-6, to reach the final of the ATP St Jude tournament. Haas, the third seed, was due to face the American, Jim Courier, in the final last night.

Results Digest page 11

Paterson's late raid plunders victory

BY GARY NEWBON

England	15
Scotland	16

Scotland's rugby union team came to Twickenham for the Calcutta Cup match 28 years ago looking for their first win in London since before the Second World War. Reporting for the Sunday Mirror was Gary Newbon, 25, who went on to become Central TV's Controller of Sport

The Scots' championship wooden-spoonists, without a win before yesterday, were trailing 15-8 before this dramatic finale. Seven stunning minutes later the Scotland team were carrying off skipper Peter Brown and the Calcutta Cup with their first win at the Rugby Union HQ since 1938.

But afterwards England captain John Spencer protested that a whistle in the crowd cost England the match. He claimed: "We all stood still for Duncan Paterson's try after 74 minutes. There was a blatant knock-on and a whistle went. We now know it came from the crowd. We all stood still and all he had to do was drop on the ball."

Scrum half Paterson was behind both late tries – the last in the final minute. First he dived on a loose ball to poach the controversial try. Then he made a break from a ruck inside the England 25. Peter Brown was up to throw out a long pass to his centre, Chris Rea, who swept over. Peter Brown converted. The Scots had won.

Only yet sixty seconds earlier the 60,000 Twickenham crowd were expecting once again to herald Big Roots Bob Miller. He had looked like repeating his one-man scoring act for England for the third successive international. Scorer of all England's 23 points in the two previous matches, the

SATURDAY
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MARCH
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kicking king of Twickers scored all but three of England's 15 yesterday. But in this game he missed three penalties and two conversions. England rely so heavily on him for points that flanker Tony Neary made news by breaking the monotony with an unconverted second-half try.

The Scots, so dominant throughout in the line-out, suffered a serious blow in the seventh minute when their tearaway centre, John Frame, went off with a badly bruised thigh. He was replaced by substitute Steve Turk, with left wing Alastair Biggar moving inside to centre. This put extra responsibility on the speedy Rea, who must have impressed the

The biggest battle was at the base of the scrum, where David Powell and new cap Fran Cotton were pushing Scotland's smaller props, McLauchlan and Alex Carmichael, down to such an extent that there were several collapses.

England have found the right half-back combination with the new pairing of scrum half Jacko Page and Dick Cowman. Cowman had a hand in England's magnificent try by Hiller which opened the scoring in the eleventh minute.

[illegible]

Reference: C Durand (France).



Yevgeny Kafelnikov on his way to beating Tim Henman in Rotterdam yesterday

Reuters

TELL HIM YOU DON'T WANT IT BECAUSE OF THE KIDS

INTERVIEW OF THE EXPERTS ON THE ROAD

IT'S THE TRUTH

IT'S JUST NOT THE WHOLE TRUTH

P.S. REMEMBER NOT TO WEAR YOUR

DRIVING GLOVES NEAR THE HOUSE.

DON'T BLIP THE ENGINE IN THE DRIVEWAY.

AND STOP WHISTLING SO MUCH.



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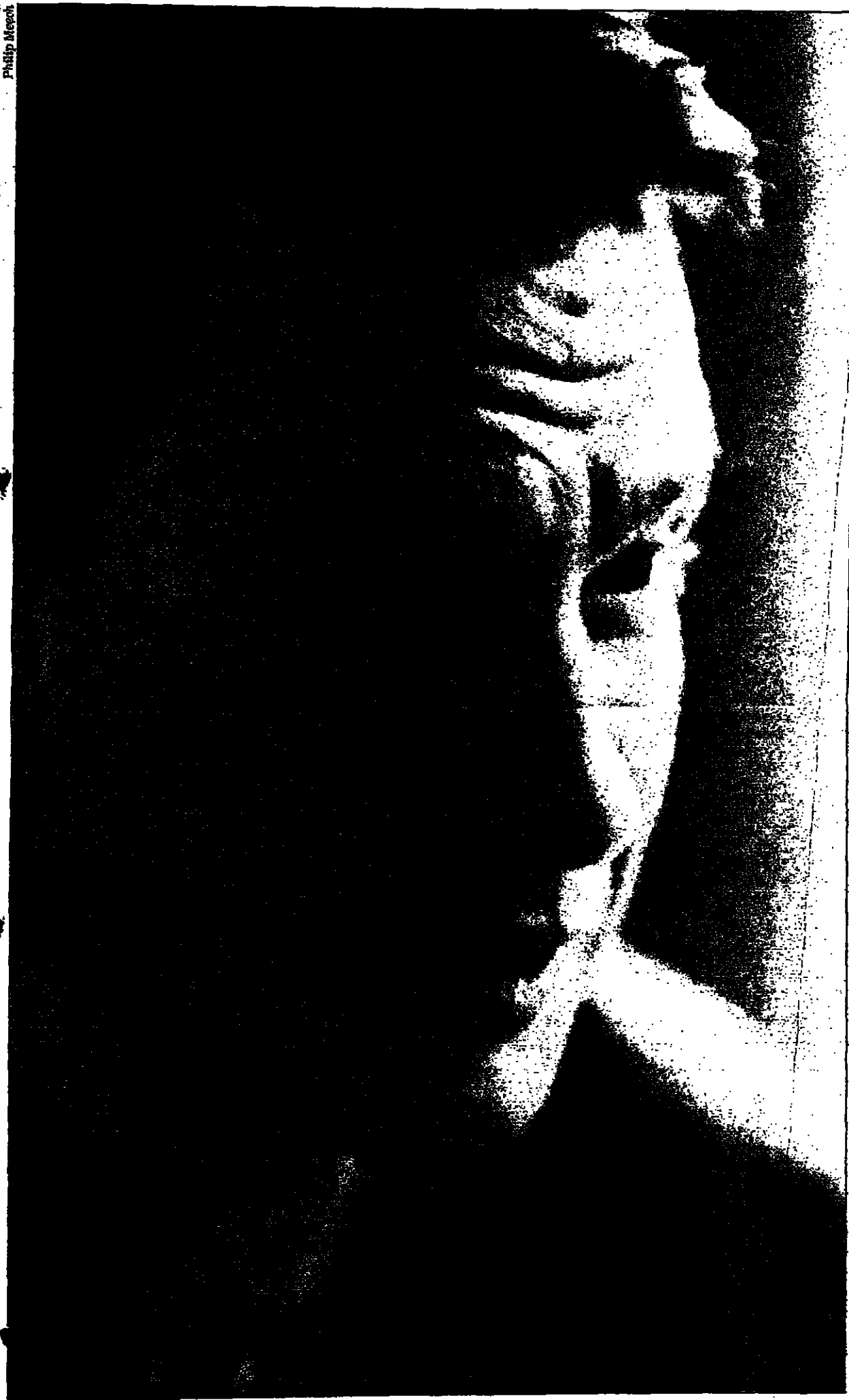
THE WORLD'S MOST EXHILARATING SAFE CHOICE

MONDAY REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • LISTINGS • TELEVISION

The hair apparent

Ruthless, arrogant, heartless. Michael Portillo's been called a lot of things, few of them polite. But we've rarely glimpsed the man behind the tanned façade and the architect, let's face it, of the greatest quiff in political history



OK, Michael Portillo, are you planning on making a political comeback? "Yes." When? "I shall probably look for a seat at the next general election." Does The Party know? "I've never made a secret of it." What if a seat became available earlier? "Obviously, I'd have to think about that." How do you rate that Hague boy? "Whatever I say will get twisted, so I'll just confine myself to saying I'm happy to be his supporter."

Right, now we've got all that out of the way, on to more important business. Your hair, Michael. Truly, it's a magnificent thing. Not so much a common-or-garden quiff, more the swell of a great ocean wave that rises thrillingly at the front then crashes midway along your scalp. Tell me, Michael, do you go to bed with a big Carmen roller in it at night? "I do not!" A quick, steamy shhhh with the Babyiss curling tongs first thing in the morning, then? "No." L'Oréal Studio Line Styling Mousse (firm hold)? "No." So, your hair is an entirely natural phenomenon, then? "Yes. IT IS!"

This, actually, is quite an important snippet of information. Because, as I can see now, the big question about Michael Portillo isn't, actually, when or how he'll come back. Even though he is no longer even an MP, he manages to somehow remain a big beast in the jungle. And big beasts will inevitably pounce, even though they might have to circle around for a bit, sniffing the air beforehand. As this much is certain, let us address the bigger question: Who is Michael Denis Xavier Portillo, exactly?

Astonishingly, for someone who was so high-profile for so long - 11 conspicuous, often controversial years as a Tory minister - it's not as if we've ever had any glimpses into his inner life. Or emotional life. It's not as if he'd ever do HELLO, although he's had the odd invite. "A letter, once, I think." And you turned them down? You could have got two weeks in The Seychelles out of it, you silly boy! He says: "Not to be in is cheap at the price, I think."

He's been called a lot of things over the years. He's been called "arrogant" and "ruthless" and "heartless" and, as John Major once saw it, "a bastard". There have been dark rumours about his private life, including the suggestion that he's gay. How come, Michael? "You'd better ask the people who put them around." Where is that inner man? Michael, what makes you cry? "Oh, lots of things. I'm quite a sentimental person. It may be something in my life. It may be a film." What films have you cried at? "Have you seen *Life is Beautiful*? No. Neither, it transpires, has he.

We meet just off Oxford street at the offices of Kerr McGee Oil PLC. Since famously losing his Enfield Southgate seat to Stephen Twigg at the general election (did you stay up for Portillo? YES! YES!), he's been working here part-time as a consultant. He meets me in reception. He is beautifully mannered. He has a beautiful, oboe-like voice. He is beautifully dressed: a crisp, possibly Italian denim-coloured shirt; navy, possibly Italian trousers with a pleat that continues into the turn-ups, then cleverly turns back up with them. He is beautifully dashing, too. I am quite overcome in a Barbara Cartland sort-of-way. The dark eyes. The strong features. The muscular torso. The lips that are bee-stung not by one bee, but its mum and

grandma and auntie and pretty much the whole of the hive. Plus there is that little exotic something extra that is Spanish. Do you feel Spanish, Michael? "I certainly feel half-Spanish," he says. Does that mean you're entitled to half a nap after lunch? "Good question!" he replies, with such flattering enthusiasm that I'm as won over as he'd intended. "I can certainly adapt to having lunch at 3pm."

In short, he's a Tory you could actually sleep with, which is quite something, because there aren't many of those about.

I ask Michael what it feels like to have been constantly described as the most beautiful man in British politics. He says: "Well, I try to think everything that's written about me is crap, because then I can cope when horrible things are written."

You are lovely looking, though.

"So are you."

I'm not.

"Well, you have oodles of personality."

Bloody hell, I'm not that plain.

At least he can't charm his way out of everything.

Aside from being a consultant at Kerr

English and had to take a job sweeping the roads for 10 bob a week. Although he went on to translating jobs in the civil service, and to marry Michael's mother (Cora Waldegrave Blyth, a Scottish teacher) and settle in north London, he was always very much the intellectual-in-exile.

"I wasn't born when he had to sweep the streets, so I don't know if he felt humiliated by that. But, when I was a young boy, I do remember a gas man coming round and I don't know what went wrong, but there was some altercation and the gasman called my father 'a bloody foreigner', and my father was not only indignant at the time but years afterwards he would refer back to it. I'm sure that was because he felt humiliated." And did you? "Yes. I felt terrible about it." Do you fear humiliation? "Yes."

You'd think that, given his father's experience, Michael would have grown up sympathising with the underdog, but instead he opted to react the opposite way. He would not be humiliated. He would be worth something. He would not be "a bloody foreigner", always on the outside. He would be among the rulers, rather than the ruled. He would have power and he would exert it.

Ironically, of course, it all ended in the most terrible humiliation on the night of 1 May 1996. "Actually, what I find humiliating might not be what you expect. I didn't feel humiliated when I was defeated. I felt I was part of the democratic process, and I believe in the democratic process. For as long as I was elected, I had legitimacy, then when I wasn't, I didn't. I do fear humiliation, but it might not come in the shape others might think."

What shape does it come in, then? "It comes when you know you've let yourself down. That is real humiliation." An example? "Ah, hum, well..." You see? He just won't let you get to the bottom of him.

As a young boy, Michael was, in fact, a socialist like his father. At primary school, he had a picture of Harold Wilson on his wall. At 11, he was "running committee rooms for the Labour Party". His transformation came at Cambridge University, where he studied history. "I remember when I first got there someone I knew had been invited to a meeting of the Cambridge University Conservative Association, and I was shocked. The idea of being Conservative at that age was shocking to me. But by the time I left, I was Conservative." Why? "Partly the influence of friends, partly the influence of those who taught me, partly the political events of the time, which were the two miners strikes of 1972 and 1974." There was little doubt, at that time, that the Tories were the coming thing. And Michael needed to be a part of that.

He has always been the supreme career politician. I'm not saying he's unprincipled. Just that the career pulled along everything else. He would happily push through Tory policy, even when he personally didn't agree with it. "I remember when a Scottish MP told me they'd just introduced the poll tax in Scotland, and it was going to come to England. I said to him I thought that completely daft. The reasons it was introduced in Scotland were all to do with Scotland. They'd had a re-rating. We hadn't. It seemed to me that to make a register of the entire population of England was going to be impossible, and un-Conservative." But you were the Minister in charge of the poll tax here! "Yes. And you will find, on the record, speeches I

Continued on page 8



THE DEBORAH ROSS INTERVIEW

McGee, he has also been keeping himself busy with journalism (book reviews, mostly) and presenting television programmes. He likes doing TV. He likes the "team-work", which is what, he says, he misses most about politics. I tell him there's a job going on *Blue Peter*. "Is there?" Are you any good at knocking up Christmas decorations with two old coat-hangers and a bit of tinsel? "NO. I fear I wouldn't be good at that at all. I do have a creative urge, but not in that way." His most recent excursion into telly was, actually, a very moving, lyrical, perhaps even revealing programme in the BBC's *Great Railway Journeys Of The World* series, in which he travelled across Spain, exploring his ancestry while taking in the life of his late father, Luis. Luis was a Spanish liberal academic who fled Franco at the end of the civil war and came to this country in 1939. If Portillo has a heart, and you want to get to it, then Luis might be a good place to start.

Michael adored his father. He wrote poetry. "When I think of him, the fingers of one hand are striking his forehead, tapping rhythms of sonnets that form in his mind." He could also "cut animals from pieces of paper; freehand". He recently died of Alzheimer's, which was painful to watch. "The first indication was at lunch one day, when he suddenly shouted something unintelligible then looked rather sheepish and embarrassed." Still, by this time, Michael had seen his father witness many humiliations. Having been a much-respected Professor of Civil Law at Salamanca University, he arrived here as a penniless refugee whose qualifications were worth nothing and, who, initially, could speak no

British man and in pre-t would open-urope's idea of launch can be rather mem-rench in Blair on the in subtly the think-

ild."

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11

NT/3

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UNCONVENTIONAL?

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Whose organs?

Sir: John Harris argues for legislation to ensure that all organs from dead bodies be automatically available for transplant without consent being required ("We should recycle the dead to help the living", 19 February). His justification is that the preferences of the potential recipients (the desire to live) far outweigh those of the dead (the desire to be buried or cremated whole).

However, of all the claims to ownership rights that we make, those concerning our bodies are the least contentious. Unlike our rights to property, the right to inhabit our bodies has never been sensibly questioned. His stance is not consistent with any system that permits an individual to bequeath her property on her death.

None of this is to deny that a vast number of people could be persuaded to donate their organs on their death. Social attitudes are evolving away from the superstitious/religious belief that there is "something wrong" with the use of a dead person's organs, and one hopes that in future generations the majority will choose to allow their organs to be used on their death. Choice remains, however, crucial. Each of us owns our bodies, and, since this accords us the right to do with them as we will when we are alive, we have the right to determine what happens to them on our death.

Harris refers to compulsory post-mortem examinations in an attempt to persuade us that such a right does not, in fact, exist. However, while providing good reasons why post-mortem examinations serve the public interest, Harris fails to justify his assertion that there is a "strong public interest" in organ transplants. Organ transplants are undertaken in the interests of the individual concerned: in an attempt to extend the life of the recipient because the recipient desires to live longer.

So is there a "third way"? There is, and it is one that Harris mentions at the end of his article: a "fully consensual scheme". The system at the moment is flawed insofar as it allows relatives to veto the use of the deceased's organs. Ownership rights to a body can only sensibly be ascribed to the inhabitant (not her family as well), and so her wishes should always be met where possible.

There is a strong case for a default system that would permit organ use on death except where the individual had specified otherwise. This would still allow the individual to "opt out" for any reason: religious, superstitious, misanthropic and so on.

Although it would be wonderful for all potential organ recipients to have a matching donor, they do not have the right to take possession of another person's organs. ANDREW S LEGGETT
Department of Philosophy
University of Reading

Sir: For Professor Harris's scheme to be enacted, there will need to be a full debate on the circumstances of organ donation.

It is suggested by Professor Harris and others that the removal of organs at post-mortem examination is similar to that at organ donation; this is simply not the case. In the former, death is certain, circulation is stagnant and the body cold. At donation, death is diagnosed, the circulation supported, and the body warm.

These facts, and others which would be even more distasteful to many, are essential for the understanding of organ donation. It would be wholly inappropriate to propose legislation to allow the removal of organs without consent without laying the full facts before the public.

Dr JOHN URQUHART FRCA
Consultant Anaesthetist
Bury St Edmunds

Sir: Post-mortem examinations are carried out on dead bodies; organs are harvested from living ones, in spite of Professor Harris's use of the term "cadaver".



Venice Carnival No 1: a masked reveller sets out for the ball

Andrew Buurman

He should know what most of those carrying donor cards to not. At the time of harvesting they will remain on life-support, be warm, pink and breathing with a ventilator, have a heartbeat and pulse, and have some brain activity. They will also be responsive to pain, requiring paralyzing drugs, blood transfusion and anaesthetics for the surgery. Horrifyingly, not all will receive anaesthesia. This is a far cry from the cold, white, stiff lifeless body undergoing post-mortem examination.

Presumed consent (now supported by the BMA) or Professor Harris's wish for compulsion would remove any need for such awkward explanations.

Dr DAVID J HILL
Consultant Anaesthetist
Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire

Lord in waiting
Sir: I would like to sit in the House of Lords and I think I could provide just as much of an "independent, free-thinking and unprejudiced element" as Viscount Head and his colleagues (letter, 19 February). Can the noble lord please explain why he has more right to a seat in the Lords than I have?

IAN DICKINS
Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands

Sir: Can we have either (a) a vote as soon as possible for a democratic second chamber, or (b) a moratorium on unelected major landowners writing in and telling us that they are not ruled by narrow self-interest because they do not belong to a political party? The Rev DAVID E FLAVELL
Liverpool

GM stowaways
Sir: You report (20 February) the eating of genetically modified tomatoes by Zeneca researchers, seeds and all, and the danger that the seeds may germinate and grow on a sewage farm somewhere in Berkshire, thus spreading the

modified genes around in an uncontrolled manner.

Surely we must also be concerned about visitors from countries where GM tomatoes are freely available and eaten? If someone has, for example, eaten a GM tomato in New York prior to flying to Heathrow then the digested seeds could end up in any sewage farm in the UK or Europe.

International travel is making a mockery of any attempts to prevent the release of GM organisms within Britain and other countries which currently do not allow commercial growing of them. Dr DIGBY L JAMES
Weston Rhyn, Shropshire

Country bus misery

Sir: I have every respect for Ken Livingstone ("Don't privatise the Tube by the back door", 17 February) and think he ought to have the chance to run for Mayor of London. But don't many Londoners sound so insular? He says of the Tube: "It has got so bad that I routinely have to allow an extra 10 to 15 minutes on any journey to cope with unexpected delays."

Sir: John Ashwell (letter, 19 February) is in serious error in repeating the claim that the Church of England was only "established" by Henry VIII. The right to appoint bishops was exercised by English monarchs, though sometimes resisted by the Pope, for hundreds of years before Henry VIII was even thought of. R J HALL
Chichester, West Sussex

Sir: David Edmonds (Right of Reply, 18 February) states: "In 1985, Phoenix added a 11 to every geographical number. This increased available capacity from 900 million numbers to 9 billion." This means that with our current

population of about 58 million we have 155 lines per person in this country. Mr Edmonds says that we can now have a separate telephone number for each member of our family. Just how big does he envisage the family of the future to be? ROBERT G BREW
Worthing, West Sussex

Sir: General Obasanjo (unlike General Abacha) cannot reasonably be characterised as a dictator ("Ex-dictator tops poll in Nigeria", 16 February). He took office on the platform of creating an independent electoral process, holding free and fair elections, returning

the army to barracks and retiring from the army and from politics. He did precisely that. In the interim he sought (via civilian administration) to reform governance especially by reducing corruption, to some purpose. That his civilian and military successors reversed this process is hardly his responsibility. Professor R H GREEN
Leaves, East Sussex

Sir: Speaking of supermarket trolleys (letter, 19 February), am I alone in thinking that if only one pair of wheels swivelled rather than both pairs, they would be much easier to control? CHRIS GEEKING
King's Lynn, Norfolk

As a local councillor I recently got a letter from a distressed lady whose only bus is likely to be axed. On Tuesday the bus goes through her village, allowing her to shop in the town for two hours before returning. It is supported by the county council but, with more demands chasing less money, it faces the chop. The saving in taking off one bus a week is clearly minimal.

Where is this happening? Dartmoor? Northern Scotland? The villages affected are Wakes Colne and Mount Bures, a few miles outside Colchester in Essex and about 50 miles from Charing Cross. We know London has serious transport problems but in the sticks would like a few of its millions. HENRY SPYVEE
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Sir: I disagree with Jeremy Laurence ("Stoicism might save the NHS", 16 February). He suggests that the public should show restraint in consulting their GPs, or perhaps be charged a fee

for each consultation. My great uncle, a GP I much admired, said that the art of general practice was to spot the one ill person among the hundred who consulted you. And how can the inexperienced public know if their illness is significant?

My father, also a GP I much respected, advised me to drop everything and call urgently if asked to "drop in and see someone sometime if passing", but not to worry too much about the "come at once!"

I was privileged to be his partner for a few years before being seduced by the glamour and excitement of hospital medicine. The GPs in the front line are the salt of what is still, for all its warts, the best health service in the world. Bevan rightly considered that it should be free to all at the point of provision, and that point should be accessible to all. A hurdle at access might deter the needy.

Tolerance indeed is needed, but of the struggling NHS by the public it serves. Love it or lose it. JOHN ATKINS FRCOG
Swainby, North Yorkshire

IN BRIEF

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MILES KINGTON
What do you call a person who stands around in bandages for a simulated air disaster?

I wanted to say: "No, they're not casualties, they're just...," but I couldn't think what to say next with-

out being long-winded. Is there in fact an accepted word for people who stand around in airports looking terribly wounded in order to help a simulated air disaster?

Dr Wordsmith writes: I can think of several, but I am not sure that any of them would be very useful. Next!

Dear Dr Wordsmith, I can vouch for the experience of the first two letter-writers. At the time of the recent avalanche disaster in Chamonix, I kept hearing the name Chamonix as "Germany". From there it was but a short step to thinking of the song from the Mel Brooks film *The Producers* not as "Springtime for Hitler and Germany" but "Springtime for Hitler and Chamonix".

Dr Wordsmith writes: If anyone else writes in with an apparently

Straw not so daft

Sir: Jack Straw said people should consider questioning folk who were behaving anti-socially. He did not suggest people should "take the law into their own hands", or that they should be "bossing everyone about and marching people they do not like the look of down to the police station" (leading article, 19 February).

I am not a member of the Labour Party, but I am a member of the human race. Do you really think I should ignore bad behaviour in my town? I might be too frightened always to act, but I don't consider it daft to think that sometimes I should. PHILIP COOK
Westbury, Wiltshire

Sir: Jack Straw may like to know that I recently took a young man to task for throwing his cigarette packet wrapper on to the pavement.

"Can't you take your rubbish home?" I challenged him. He laughed and retorted: "I live on the street." MALCOLM WILLIAMS
Westhild, Herefordshire

Four-wheel bullies

Sir: Ian Leslie, writing about people who follow the hunt in 4x4 vehicles (letter, 17 February), asks: "In fairness... on how many days a year do the hunt and its followers come out?" The answer is, a minimum of three days a week and often as many as six days a week on some hunts during the hunting season, which stretches from the end of August until the middle or end of March.

This is over half of the year that we have to tolerate these bullies chasing our wildlife to death and churning up our bridle paths in all weathers. They also have the cheek to tell those who protest against the hunt to "get a job". Unlike the six-days-a-week hunters, most of us do have one. SUSAN DICKENS
Hove, East Sussex

Thames threatened

Sir: Five years ago, a long-overdue initiative was launched amid widespread acclaim - the Thames Landscape Strategy, to conserve, protect and enhance the river Thames. A number of local authorities and organisations are "responsible" for the Thames, but the national interest too often slips through the gaps between them, and a series of planning decisions have been taken at a local level which have damaged the character and environment of this great natural and cultural asset.

The latest case is the former swimming pool site on Twickenham riverside which is rare in retaining its 18th-century buildings and village atmosphere. The proposals now before the Richmond upon Thames council comprise a development, seven stories high, with 37 apartments, an auditorium, cinemas and restaurants. This would be another out-of-scale development like the ice-rink site further down the river opposite Richmond Hill. There would be next to no open space left on this sensitive site.

We had hoped that such commercial over-development on the Thames was a thing of the past, and that such schemes would be judged by their effect on the Thames environment. The present scheme has aroused vehement local opposition and should be dropped.

Doing nothing is not an alternative. The borough needs the help and encouragement of all those interested in the future of the Thames, to produce a modest scheme which enhances the quality of this precious stretch of the river, and conserves the intimate scale and working character of the Twickenham and Bel Pie waterfronts. LORD ATTENBOROUGH
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LADY PANUFNIK
BRIAN PARKER
Twickenham Society
PETE TOWNSEND
Sir PETER WAKEFIELD
Twickenham, Middlesex

Strong government

Sir: Steve Richards rightly makes the point in his article on business men in government (Comment, 18 February) that a key reason for their introduction is that "this was a government full of ministers with no experience of running anything after 18 years in opposition".

The fundamental cause of Labour's difficulties lies as ever in our weak electoral system. Proportional representation, over which Mr Blair is dragging his feet, would have offered him and his colleagues a chance to cut their adult teeth well before they arrived at their present situation. The Labour Party would not have spent 18 years in the wilderness, but different members of it would have gained experience of responsible decision-making as participants in shifting coalitions along the way.

English people talk of strong government as one-party rule. Coalition government, would be a good deal healthier, not to say more efficient. In the complex world that we inhabit we cannot afford to be run by amateurs. PATRICIA GRAHAM
Tonbridge, Kent

No problem

Sir: It is always inconvenient when the language lacks a simple designation for a common phenomenon, and at present we seem to have a vocabulary gap for confident government assurance that there is no danger to the public from leaks of nuclear radiation, flying saucers, genetically modified food or whatever it might be. As tentative suggestions, how about a *Gummer*, or a *Cunningham*, or a *Blair*? CONNOR FERRIS
Exeter

Monica Lewinsky and other amusing aural confusions

IT'S TIME to drag Dr Wordsmith out of the pub and into the office again to answer some of your fascinating questions about the English language's use today. All yours, doc!

Dear Dr Wordsmith, I am fascinated by the way you can get two words or phrases which sound identical but which are written quite differently, thus obscuring their similarity. The other day I overheard someone talking about an American whose name, as far as I could gather, was "Monocle Uwin-sky". I had never heard of "Monocle Uwin-sky" but he seemed to be very famous. Suddenly I realised that they were talking about Monica Lewinsky! These two names look rather different on paper but are pronounced entirely the same! Dr Wordsmith writes: How

very, very fascinating. And what is your question?

Well, I wondered if there were any words which described the process of hearing one word and seeing quite a different one in your mind's eye?

Dr Wordsmith writes: If there is, I have never come across it. And the next!

Dear Dr Wordsmith, I would like to agree with the last letter. Recently I was listening to someone disparaging 20th-century English music, saying that only Elgar had written anything worth keeping, and pouring scorn on the whole Delius myth. Well, of course, I didn't hear that as the "Delius myth" - I heard it as "Dellia Smith" - so for a few minutes we had a very comical misunderstanding! Dr Wordsmith writes: Highly

droll. Do you have a question?

No.

Dr Wordsmith writes: Then, for heaven's sake, make way for someone who has!

Dear Dr Wordsmith, I was recently at a small provincial airport where they were having an emergency rehearsal of what to do in the event of an air disaster. There were lots of people round the place covered in bandages with pretend blood seeping through, and some on crutches. When we passed through, they were taking a break, so we had the strange sight of all these terrible casualties standing around with cups of tea, chatting casually and some even smoking.

Dr Wordsmith writes: I see. And do you have a question? Yes. One of my children asked me if they were dying people, and

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There was no public interest in this authoritarian action

LAST WEEK we said Jack Straw was illiberal and he seems determined to prove us right. His legal action against publication of anything from the official report on the police handling of the Stephen Lawrence murder inquiry was heavy-handed, pointless and wrong. Along with other newspapers, *The Independent* argued before the judge yesterday that the injunction was an unjustified interference in the freedom of the press, which is one of the guarantors of the freedom of the people.

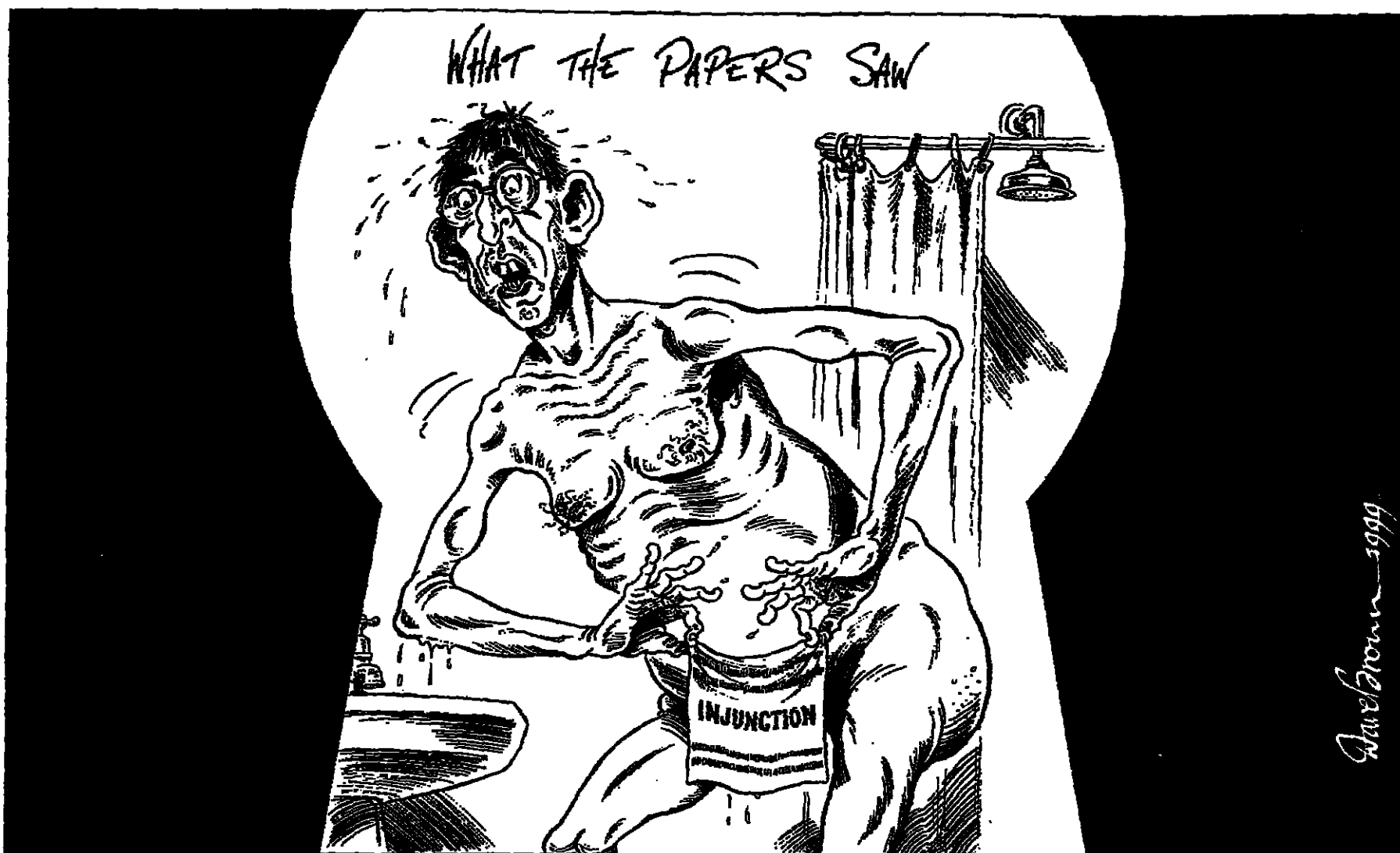
Yes, it would have been better if the Lawrence family had seen the report first, since it is an analysis of an injustice that was done primarily to them. The fact that the family seem to have no objection to the *Sunday Telegraph's* report is no defence, although it makes the Home Secretary's position look even more ridiculous.

Yes, it would have been better if the report had been presented, fresh and in full, to the House of Commons (not that New Labour, more leaking than leaked against, shows much sign of understanding that). By their nature, leaks are biased: they are usually intended to present information in a particular light. That is especially important when a report is judicial in character, concerned with pointing the finger of blame.

So Mr Straw was perfectly entitled to do as much as he could to ensure the inquiry's deliberations were secret and its report remained under wraps until Wednesday. The question is what he should have done when he learnt of the leak. There are some cases when it might conceivably be worth going to the courts in an attempt to suppress publication, but conceiving of them is difficult. Parts of the report had appeared in the first editions of the *Sunday Telegraph*, on one Saturday evening news bulletin, in the foreign press and on the Internet - and much of the substance of the report has appeared in this newspaper over the past two months.

Given that injunctions do not really work, there has to be an overwhelming case for them in the public interest. And in no sense can early publication of the Macpherson report be "profoundly unfair", either to the Lawrences or the police, as the Home Office claimed. But even if it were, the right of a free press to be unfair is a vital safeguard in a democracy. Mr Straw was not engaged in a public-relations exercise to "spin" the publication of this report, but a less scrupulous minister might have been, and the ability of journalists to subvert media manipulation by any government is vital to us all.

We hope the Home Secretary simply acted in haste and irritation, before he realised the pointlessness of his action. And that he will restrain his closed-government, controlling tendencies when he is next faced with newspapers that will not behave like the *People's Daily*.



A price worth paying for a free market

IF TONY Blair really believed in grown-up, joined-up politics - those clever, patronising coinages of his - he should tell his friend Gerhard Schröder, the new German Chancellor, that he will give up Britain's EU rebate. He won't, of course, because the annual £2bn refund, won by Margaret Thatcher's handbag diplomacy, is a great symbol of national truculence. It is also highly symbolic of the way British public opinion treats the European Union like a shop: "We bought this pig in a poke in 1975, it said on the label it would make us as rich as Germans overnight, and it hasn't: we want our money back."

If the Prime Minister wants to encourage a more mature attitude to what should be more like a workplace - a collective enterprise in which we do not simply ask what

Europe can do for us but what we can do for Europe - he should explain that the only reason we need the rebate is because EU farm policy makes our food so expensive.

Then we could all move on to the argument which really matters: how to dismantle the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). As we report today, the Germans, who are currently minding the shop (or workplace) as holders of the rotating presidency, have tabled some tough proposals to get EU spending under control. In Britain, it is hard to realise how much this issue dominates the German press. Germany pays in to EU funds far more than even its wealth justifies, and the German taxpayer is getting restless.

EU subsidy is already being switched from buying up food at guaranteed prices to direct handouts to farmers, and the Germans want to speed this up while freezing the EU budget at its current level. That would mean a free (ish) market in food at world prices by 2006. If that happened, British taxpayers would benefit from cheaper food and could afford to chip in more to the Brussels kitty.

If Mr Blair indicated a willingness to link the British rebate to CAP reform, he could win friends in Bonn and undermine people in Paris. The French hypocrisy in pretending to support enlargement of the EU to the east would be exposed, because that simply cannot happen while open-ended farm subsidies are on offer. For too long, Europe's leaders have been allowed to pay lip service to the idea of a wider Europe while focusing all their efforts on the launch of the euro. Now that the euro is real, however, it can be seen as a force pulling the whole of Europe together, rather than simply as a fence around the middle.

But, as Europe expands, the burden on the richer member states will shift from supporting inefficient French farms to reconstructing inefficient Polish factories. Mr Blair needs to start putting the case now for learning from the mistakes of the CAP, so that billions are not wasted in subsidy and that the burden is fairly shared. Eventually the British rebate will have to go: now is the time to start thinking of a fair way of replacing it.

Was all this worth it just for the sake of - Wales, Mr Blair?

REMEMBER THAT bit in Robert Bolt's play *A Man for All Seasons*, when Thomas More tells young Richard Rich, who has betrayed him for the sake of becoming the Welsh Attorney General: "It profits a man nothing to give his soul for the whole world. But for Wales?" When at the weekend Alan Michael was declared the victor in the contest for the leadership of the Welsh Assembly it was similarly easy to wonder whether the pain was all worth it for a job about which the Welsh people, never mind the rest of us, are highly apathetic, which will have little more power than that of a leader of a large metropolitan county council, and which it is probable, if Mr Blair had been wholly true to his instincts, might not have existed at all.

Indeed it's a miracle that Welsh politics has any capacity to reverberate in London at all. But it does. The referendum on Welsh devolution, which voted Yes by the narrowest and most perilous of majorities, was a more seminal event than it was given credit for at the time. It was a shock to the New Labour system; it demonstrated that even a vigorous campaign by a wildly popular Prime Minister on the back of a huge general election victory, could not guarantee to turn public opinion on an issue about which the larger segment were apathetic at best and downright hostile at worst.

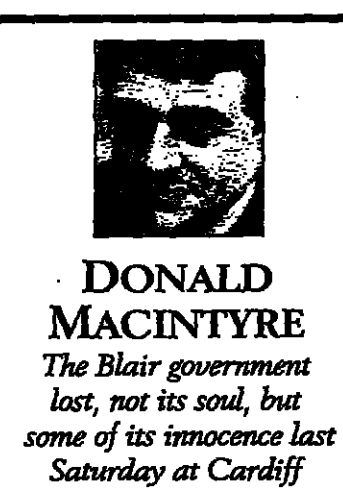
It is not too much to say that, if it had not been for that shock, we might now be confidently awaiting a referendum on House of Commons electoral reform in the current Parliament. Now Wales has reverberated again: the election of Mr

Michael, Mr Blair's favoured candidate, over the unmistakably more popular Rhodri Morgan, with the pivotal help of some distinctly old Labour union block votes, has become a symbol of what Mr Blair's critics insist is a control-freak personality this time taking away with one hand some of what he gave with the other through the act of devolution.

Tony Blair has not sold his soul to get Alan Michael elected (though to read the Welsh press over the past few weeks you would think he had). But he has paid a price. Within Wales Labour is now going to have run harder to stand still. The Welsh Assembly elections in 73 days time were never going to be easy; there were worries that as in the English local elections last year, the core Labour vote would stay at home whether because they were mildly discontented with the Government, or whether, conversely, and more probably, they were quite content with its performance and perceived that since there was no great Tory threat there was no point in turning out to vote.

In the Welsh assembly elections, moreover, abstentionism was always going to increase because of apathy about the assembly. Now there is a third factor: the resentment among Labour Party activists and members (64 per cent of whom voted on Saturday for Mr Morgan) which will make them less enthusiastic about turning out for the vote on May 6.

The once unthinkable possibility that Labour will win less than an overall majority of the 60 assembly seats, or that the Welsh Nationalists will hold



DONALD MACINTYRE
The Blair government lost, not its soul, but some of its innocence last Saturday at Cardiff

the balance of power, cannot now be ruled out. As a result Peter Hain, the Welsh Office minister who ran Mr Michael's campaign and is largely responsible for the fact that his victory was not even narrower, has been pressing Downing Street energetically to sanction a campaign directed at the party's own heartlands: a little less *Daily Mail* and a little more *Mirror*, a little more emphasis on the Government's redistributive measures from the national minimum wage to the Working Families Tax Credit.

Beyond Wales, however, the price is rather different. The uncomfortable fact that Mr Michael depended in part for votes cast by the TGWU in the same, ballot-free way for which the union was reviled for voting for Tony Benn in the deputy leadership contest in 1981, cannot be overlooked. One

Member One Vote (OMOV) democracy has taken a battering and, albeit on a small scale, Tony Blair has had to rely on union leadership just as - whisper it - Harold Wilson used to rely on Bill Cartton, the engineering union leader, to beat the left in the 1960s. It is a safe bet we won't be hearing quite so much about further reductions in the block vote at party conferences, much less breaking the party links with the unions altogether, for the time being. The Blair government lost, not its soul, but some of its innocence last Saturday in Cardiff. It amounts to an admission that OMOV - in trade unions as well as constituencies - was a means to doing worthwhile things like getting Tony Blair elected rather than as an end in itself.

But that's an old story. Mr Blair has always more been more interested in ends than means. For him Wales has been sorted out. It is a safe bet he spent most of yesterday thinking about the much more fundamental questions raised by Sir William Macpherson's report on the murder of Stephen Lawrence and in particular whether Sir Paul Condon should be made, under the threat of the sack, finally to admit that "institutional racism" has prevailed in the Metropolitan Police. The Prime Minister will not exactly be spending this week worrying whether he was right to allow union block vote to be deployed in the election of a politician most people outside Wales, and a lot inside, would still find hard to put a face to.

It doesn't follow though that Mr Blair's apparently Leninist fixation with ends rather than means works

against the interests of devolved government. What has been interesting about the Morgan-Michael contest is precisely what it shows us about Blair the meritocrat.

By co-incidence Mr Morgan and Mr Michael had both worked on Blair teams in opposition, Mr Morgan when the future leader was Shadow energy spokesman and Mr Michael when he was shadow Home Secretary. It wasn't personal or ideological, he just thought Mr Michael a lot better than Mr Morgan. And you can only think he doesn't have a right to influence who should be the party's candidate to spend £8bn a year of the Welsh taxpayers' money (when he has the right to appoint Bishops, Regus Professors BBC chairmen and goodness who else) if you think that devolution is as much a gift for the party membership as it is for the wider electorate. But it isn't. It's for the consumers, not the practitioners of politics. Now if, and only if, he is right about Mr Michael then it follows (1) that he will do a better job for Wales and (2) that the Welsh people will be more likely to vote a Michael-led Welsh Labour party in the future.

Mr Blair has certainly stored up some problems with a party membership in which he once put so much faith. But if nothing else, by paying this price for getting Michael selected, Blair has shown that whatever his initial doubts, he now accepts that the Welsh assembly will happen and it needs to work well.

So was all this worth it just for Wales? Well, yes, as a matter of fact it just might have been.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"There is no reason why a man could not carry a child."
Dr Simon Fisher,
director of the Centre for Assisted
Reproduction in Nottingham

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"Faith which does not doubt is dead faith."
Miguel de Unamuno,
Spanish philosopher

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"FOR ALL the cackhandedness of his presentation, Mr Blair deserves credit for refusing to be swayed on this issue. He has for once ignored the promptings of his focus groups. The potential benefits of genetic modification for both our health and our environment, are too important to be jeopardised for the sake of one week's headlines. Mr Blair may even find that, in the long run, a principled stand can win the voters' respect." *Sunday Telegraph*

WHAT LORD Sainsbury's role in the genetically modified foods debate has exposed is the inadequacies of the modern parliamentary system for accommodating talent plucked from outside the party machines. He has not entered politics; he has entered government. He thus arrives in high office without having been through the bruising apprenticeship that might have prepared him for [this] criticism and scrutiny." *Sunday Business*

THE PRIME Minister describes concerns about genetically modified foods as scaremongering. But his insistence in singing the praises of GM foods in such a gung-ho way is scary.

It is possible that GM foods are perfectly safe but until we know, we'd like less tinkering with our food, and a bit more humble pie from Mr Blair." *Sunday Mirror*

"THE SCALE and reach of Monsanto's lobbying are disquieting in view of the Government's refusal to heed the growing fears about the possible impact of genetic modification on our food and environment. One wonders if our farmers would be enduring the absurd beef-on-the-bone ban if they had a fraction of Monsanto's PR clout." *Mail on Sunday*

THOSE WHO raise doubts about genetically modified food

are accused of adopting a Luddite position, but the truth is that scientists themselves are divided on the dangers and the benefits.

Far from taking an approach that is against science, we have sought just two concessions: a three-year moratorium on commercial crop development until the results of the Government's own research are available, and clear, consistent and compulsory labelling. *Independent on Sunday*

PANDORA

ALUN MICHAEL may have scraped his way into the hot seat of Welsh Assembly leader-elect, but he has yet to make it to the Assembly itself. The Welsh Secretary will face some interesting competition from Richard Booth, the self-styled King of Hay-on-Wye, who will represent Arthur Scargill's Socialist Labour Party in the Mid and West Wales region. Booth, who is credited with founding Hay's famous book culture, unfurled a Red Rose banner over his home of Hay Castle to support New Labour during the 1997 general election but has now broken ranks. The eccentric "monarch" will appear on the top-up list with Welsh Secretary Alan Michael, and some on the Welsh political scene have half-joked that Booth may well prove an attractive option to voters who view Michael as a Blair poodle.

READERS of this paper will have no doubt read the responses to "You Ask the Questions" by Sinn Féin leader Gerry Adams last week. In response to one question about terrorist deaths Adams replied: "I like to think that all of these killings are an incentive for those of us who are committed to building a lasting peace settlement." Pandora notes the rather disturbing use of the word "incentive", showing, perhaps, just how much the mindset of both sides in Northern Ireland has to change before further progress is made in the peace process.

THERE IS some irony in the auction of Eric Clapton's guitars, taking place at Christie's in New York this summer. The money raised from the auction of the instruments, which include a 1956 Fender Stratocaster on which Clapton played his famous 'Layla', will go to Clapton's drug and alcohol rehabilitation centre in the Caribbean. It was Clapton's own problems with drugs that prompted the musician to set up the facility, indeed as Clapton's biographer Harry Shapiro indicates, the money he spent on drugs meant that Christie's auction could never be definitive: "Not having immediate access to the money he earned, the habit cost him the odd car and some of his very rare guitars, but at least he survived."

THERE WERE some shocked faces at an Oxford University ball recently. Amongst the invited guests was Austrian Ambassador Dr Eva Novotny, who showed that she knew more about bright young things than was expected.

After participating in the more formal waltzes, Dr Novotny was observed to ditch the Strauss jive and head downstairs for some latter-day techno.

MEANWHILE, AGRICULTURE Minister Nick Brown has raised as few eyebrows at MAFF. Strong rumours of a soon-to-be held policy meeting between Brown and the Liberal Democrats have been circulating. However, it is not the lingering whiff of cross-party cooperation that is rubbing Brown's ministerial colleagues up the wrong way. Sources say it is the fact that he has yet to hold an official meeting with them since he became Agriculture Minister last July. A spokesman at MAFF told Pandora that no date had been set for the meeting with the Liberal Democrats, although it was rather hard to make out exactly what was said over the sound of rustling diaries.

PANDORA IS so excited to have received an invitation to a "New Media Arts" Conference at the University of Luton in March. The opportunity to discuss the function of interactivity, analytical metaphors of the new media and hybridising cultural identities is positively mouth-watering. However, Pandora cannot see any window of opportunity to discuss the way this venture is travelling at high speed up the information superhighway and stationing itself in its own back interface.

SPEAKING OF Garbage, uncompromising singer Shirley Manson (pictured), is setting her sights on an acting career. The fiery-haired Scot has been going online during her band's current tour with Alanis Morissette. In one Internet session Manson told TV Guide Online that acting was "something I'll probably be doing at some point" and that she "has had some tempting offers". Pandora can envisage Shirley as a spirited lead in, say, an Irvine Welsh adaptation, but as for Oscar-winning performances Shirley might take note of band member Duke Erikson's pessimistic outlook on Garbage's collective success: "We are such losers," he remarked to the Internet magazine.

Pandora can be contacted by e-mail on: pandora@independent.co.uk



The birth of a new role for men



HUNTER DAVIES

Blockes giving birth would metamorphose into people able to cope with babies. Just as women do

"MAN WILL soon be able to have babies." When I read that news yesterday I had four reactions. The first was: "Wot you looking at me for just 'cos I'm a stone overweight." I've had this tum, doctor, which just sort of hangs there, ever since I gave up playing football. No other reason. Honest. Then I thought: "Fish kettle." Our son, who recently got married, invited us for dinner and he did this whole salmon in a fish kettle. Never seen one before. It reminded me of those metal pans midwives used when delivery babies. If I am to give birth, it could be jolly handy. Just nip round and pick it up, when I get the labour pains.

Will there be labour pains? Lord Winston, the noted fertility person, who has come out with the possibility of blockes giving birth, didn't mention it. Not that I really understood it. Something to do with an embryo being planted in a man's abdomen, where he will carry it to term, then give birth by Caesarean section. All possible, so they say.

And long overdue. Women have become far too dominant in this childbirth lark, oh for centuries. More so in the last decade. They now

don't need a bloke at all, not at first hand, but can pick up the stuff at any local sperm bank. Very soon, to save you queuing in the bank, it will be part of the cash point. You'll put in your card, key in your pin number, blood group, DNA, choice of eye colour, and bingo, you get a take-away sperm, injected into your hand. Or anywhere else.

If men could have babies, it would

even things up more. Men would be able to take to their day couch for nine months, stuff themselves with Milk Tray, Guinness or lumps of coal and get total attention. Some women do that, oh yes. And it would stop them scoring points for ever when a man moans about his cut finger or his grazed knee or sore bum. "Until you've had a baby, you don't know what real agony is, so just shut up." They wouldn't be able to say that any more. Oh no.

But could I personally bear to have a baby? When our first was about to be born, I went to father's classes at the Royal Free in Hampstead, the first such classes in England. There's a thousand words in that, I thought. But I also wanted to know how it was done. My wife, alas, was in labour for about 13 hours. I got fed up waiting, so popped out for a pie. When I got back, she'd given birth. Never been forgiven.

For our second, the birth took place at home, in the room which is now our kitchen. And I was there, all the way through. In fact it was thanks to me, he's here now, able to use a fish kettle. He was born with the cord twisted round his neck and

I helped untie it. So I have seen service. But the pain, the pain. I don't think I could stand it.

Last week I tuned in to some telly thing called *Playing the Field*, only because my wife said it was about football. Turned out to be women's football. I watched for 30 minutes, without seeing a ball kicked, then left the room, rather hurriedly when one of the players was about to go into labour. Yuck!

On the other hand, as Lord Winston is so awfully clever, blockes having babies would metamorphose into people able to cope with having babies. Just as women do. Aged 20, they often say: "No chance, I don't want no babies", then at 30 they go all broody. Pregnant men, presumably would be programmed by their hormones, and act like women, able to put up with all that pain and mess, and stuff, and not worry about where their next pie was coming from.

It would also even things up culturally and economically. I'm in the middle of a book about the West Indies, and on every island, developed or otherwise, I keep coming across women who have taken over. Bank clerks, hotel staff, solicitors, they all

seem to be women - smart and trim in their suits, so organised and reliable. While their men, poor petals, sit around on the beach or bench all day, drinking or "liming".

Fishing and farming, which they consider real jobs for real men, have gone, but they won't demean themselves by doing service jobs. So many just do nothing, supported by their women. Now if - while sitting around at home, or on the beach, they could have babies - equality in marriage would be possible.

A book. That was my fourth reaction. Fay Weldon, who is my age, she's been knocking out all this stuff about women being cloned, doing without men. There must now be scope for a novel by a man, doing without women. With IVF and all those other initials, women still need a few drops of sperm. They can't produce that on their own. Not so far. But if men gave birth, they could then do the whole shooting match. Go screw yourself would come true. Men would be absolutely, totally, in charge. I'm sure I could do a 80,000 words novel on this theme in the next two months. After all, it is fiction. Isn't it?

Why we should all praise the power of our free press



ANDREAS WHITTAM SMITH

I have seen the power of the state at close quarters - it is huge, relentless and unforgiving

SOME PEOPLE are alarmed by what they see as the increasing influence of the press. We are getting rule by the tabloids, and it is very like rule by the mob, wrote the admirable Peregrine Worsthorne in *The Daily Telegraph* last week. I do not share his concern. I could re-phrase that: I am not perturbed about the strengthening of a countervailing power to that of the State - if that is what is happening.

Let us recall how political power in its widest sense has shifted during the past 25 years. At the beginning of the period, the government of the day had two rival forces to take into consideration - the local authorities and the trades unions. In contrast, newspapers were so constrained in their physical operations by the printing unions that they appeared feeble upon the national stage; moreover their proprietors and editors were mostly stooges of the Conservative party.

Local authorities had much greater scope for independent action than they have at present. The trades unions could bring employers to their knees with relative ease. They made the conduct of anti-inflationary policy impossible. They were also bullying, undemocratic organisations. Both local authorities and trades unions could thwart the plans of central government.

Mrs Thatcher's administration, elected into office in 1979, passed successive Acts of Parliament which effectively dismantled these two rivals. In the case of the unions, this required courage. The famous miners' strike threatened a different sort of power: the electricity supply. Nonetheless the Iron Lady prevailed. The authority of the State was reasserted and enhanced.

The power that had been lost, however, did not simply evaporate or run into the ground. It was picked

up by the press and by pressure groups. In particular newspapers - now free of trades union restraints in their day-to-day output; having to reflect the arrival of third party politics with the defection of David Owen and Roy Jenkins from the Labour party; influenced too by the arrival of a less deferential society - began to take on the government of the day.

It is wrong to see the flourishing of newspaper power as having been called into being by Mr Blair and New Labour. Perry Worsthorne was in error when he wrote that the most prominent feature of new Labour's great constitutional revolution in most people's minds was not devotion to the reform of the Lords but "the rise in the power of the Fourth Estate at the expense of the authority and prestige of every other national institution". It was John Major's government which suffered the first blow.

Indeed the incessant spin doctoring of the present Government is an

acknowledgement of the sheer power of the national press, not the cause of it. It is similar to the technique that the intelligent wrestler employs when faced with a formidable opponent - he uses the power of his adversary to bring about his defeat.

Spin doctoring is essentially a defensive technique, a method of warding off the blows which may be about to land. And when the Prime Minister's press spokesman, Alastair Campbell, said the other day that, in future, the Government would try to bypass the national press by speaking more directly to the public through radio and television interviews; press conferences; soft question and answer sessions with magazines, and even coverage in the foreign press, he was admitting defeat.

Why do I focus on newspapers rather than on the media in its broadest sense? After all, the circulation of national newspapers is in secular decline, especially among young people, while radio and television channels flourish and multiply. The fact is that, in matters of public policy, national newspapers can freely attack who and what they like, whereas the news output of the electronic media is strictly regulated so as to provide impartial coverage. On radio and television the reporting of policy initiatives follows the same unilluminating form - the Government says this, the Opposition parties disagree; in other words, assertion, denial, denial. It is very boring. This is why broadcasting companies plan their daily news coverage in light of what the mornings newspapers have done. The Fourth Estate is the national newspapers - it is not the BBC.

What we can thank the entire media market for, is the way it seems to provide a daily seminar on the question of the day. Once the "big



Tony Blair: wrongly blamed for newspaper power Tom Craig

issue" has been established, every radio news programme, every chat show dealing with current affairs, every television news service, every daily newspaper has a go. What is this doctrine of reincarnation about which Mr Hoddle appears so muddled, what do Hindus and Buddhists believe about this? What are the rights and wrongs of genetically modified food? Who are the Kurds and why are they rioting? When a hospital wishes to perform an operation on your sick child, what does informed consent really mean?

Next week, we shall all partake in a further lengthy examination of the question highlighted by the Lawrence report - whether the police are riddled with racism. Unless one confines one's radio listening to music, and one's television viewing to soaps, and ignores newspapers altogether, it is impossible to avoid this daily national debate, which jumps without a backward glance from one subject to another. That is why people are much better informed than they used to be.

Certainly the freebooting, mav-

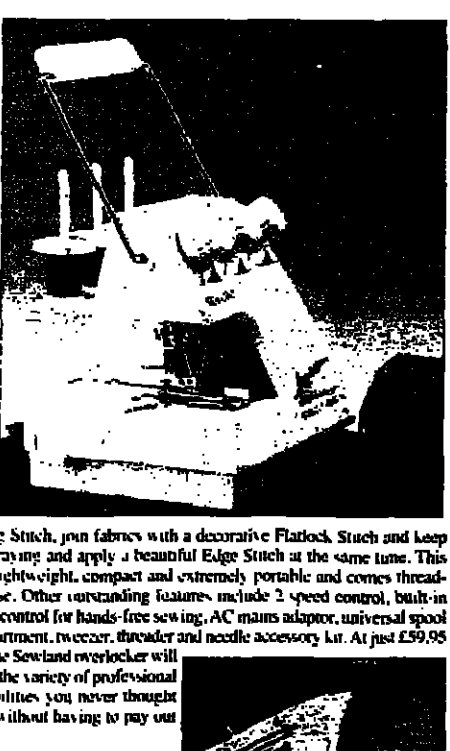
erick, irresponsible, irreverent arm of the media - the national press - does maintain a ceaseless harrying of the government of the day and of establishment bodies. As a result the authorities do pause, turn back sometimes, hesitate and then move forward more cautiously.

Where is the harm in that? I have seen the power of the state at close quarters. It is huge, relentless, unforgiving. The press attacking the government is like lightly armed, mobile troops attacking heavy armour. As for so-called national institutions, I have the care of two of them. I carry out my duties on the basis that the press has every right, if it sees good reason, to attack me and the bodies concerned. I am prepared to take my chance.

Not Perry. Was he teasing us, or had he become the wicked Peregrine, when he ended his article by urging a remodelled Tory party to win back its spurs by taking on the media? He wants the party to challenge "the ancient" (and in his view anachronistic) "taboo about the indispensability of a free press". Ugh!

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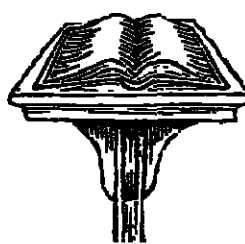
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Individual rights in the armed forces

PODIUM
GENERAL SIR ROGER WHEELER
From a speech by the Chief of General Staff to the Royal United Services Institute

BRITISH DEFENCE policy has increasingly operated within a new, and in many respects, unfamiliar security environment. There is no longer a direct threat to the United Kingdom and the immediate prospects for an all-out general war have receded. This means that we must balance planning for the worst, yet least likely case, all-out conflict, against the less demanding in terms of scale, but much more likely regional conflicts. Ironically, although the tax payer does not generally perceive any direct threat to his or her security, the world has become a less predictable, less secure place.

In the present security environment the Army Board and the staffs that support us are set on developing an Army with the broadest possible utility, but above all with a genuine war-fighting capability. We can work down from [this] to less demanding peace-support operations, but all our experience shows that the reverse simply does not work.

This was recognised in the Strategic Defence Review (SDR), which was genuinely policy-led. But obviously in

reaching its conclusions on the SDR, the Government was, and will always be, under some pressure from many other calls for expenditure that do seem to have more immediate social or political significance. This is particularly true when the man or woman in the street cannot see or feel an immediate threat to the country post Cold War. So we are never going to have a blank cheque.

Not only do we really have to make best use of every pound which we receive from the Exchequer, we must also be prepared to demonstrate that very clearly. But it is significantly more difficult to do this when few MPs and their constituents have any direct defence experience at all.

I want to move on to some of the personnel issues that will fundamentally affect the Army in the coming years. First, and most important of all, the Army is still undermanned, some 5,000 under strength. Manning the Army fully is my top priority and our investment in recruiting and retention reflects this. Including the additional 3,500 posts in the Army given by the SDR, the aim is to man the Army fully by 2004. But I

also have to say that we must acknowledge our failure to get our message across effectively in the early Nineties. One of the constant challenges for the Army now is to remind society about what we do, and convince a sceptical public of the value of a military career.

In striving to make the Army a more attractive place for recruits and for the retention of trained manpower we are clearly not going to be im-

mune to pressure for social change that emanates from either the Government or the public at large.

And in some respects of course, nor should we be: a genuine partnership has to exist between society and its volunteer, regular and reserve Armies. Yet in the absence of any common understanding within society of what we do, one of the greatest challenges which we face is expressing why warfare is different from any other undertaking and, therefore, why the needs of the Army, and indeed the other services, are sometimes different from society.

The right of the individual cannot always take the precedence that is expected in society, if it is to the detriment of our operational capability.

This means that we must strike a balance on such issues as increasing the employment of women within the Army; the applicability to the military of European legislation dealing with a national minimum wage; minimum working hours, and the employment of young people. These issues are features of democratic society that we

shouldn't be surprised by. It also means that if there are areas where we can improve, or where we have got things wrong, then we must have the courage to say so and take the initiative to put them right. We have a number of initiatives to address the whole range of personnel issues in the form of the adjutant general's human resources strategy.

The other side of the coin of making the Army acceptable to society, is that those people who join us must accept the imperatives of joining an organisation geared to war-fighting. In the past the conduct and values of society were perhaps more closely aligned with those of a military force, but this is not necessarily the case today.

The more libertarian values of modern Britain, with their emphasis on the freedom of the individual, are sometimes at odds with the values and behaviour needed to create the spirit and cohesiveness required in battle. So we intend to spell out what we feel is required of all ranks, and what is not acceptable, in all our training both as people entering the Army and in [later] training.

A dreadful performance



PETER HALL

New Labour, supported with such hope by our cultural community, has got it badly wrong

IN THE last week I have been asked repeatedly to defend my gloomy view of the future of British theatre. It is, unfortunately, as clear as can be. If things go on as they are, there will be a gentle but inexorable decline, less theatres up and down the country, smaller audiences, and a concentration on a few great flagship organisations (the National, the RSC, West Yorkshire Playhouse, Birmingham) supported by a Government that paradoxically is against elitism. In this new landscape, elitism will rule because theatre will inevitably be turned into a minority art – and an increasingly expensive one.

"Get what the market will bear," said Thatcher to the theatre world. "Lower your seat prices – be accessible," says New Labour. But, by the way, there is no more money. Provide it by cuts. You ought to manage better. At the same time that they trumpet more money for the arts, the Independent Theatre Council records that "55 per cent of small and mid-scale companies are on standstill funding. For many of them, it is for the fifth or sixth year in a row". New Labour doesn't seem to notice the contradictions.

It seems Arts Council policy to provoke the end of many small theatres so that resources can be concentrated on the big boys. This is a terrible mistake. Great theatre has to be fed from unexpected sources. You cannot plan art into existence.

Drama is no longer taught in classrooms. Visits to good professional productions are now beyond the reach of most school children. Within 20 years, the taste for drama will have been diminished, even lost. Any art requires understanding. It pays back tenfold in inspiration what the spectator puts in in knowledge. Within 20 years, the small theatres up and down the country that develop new talent and – most importantly – new audiences – will probably be gone.

The problems of the theatre are spiritual as well as economic. New Labour, supported with such hope by our cultural community, has got it badly wrong. The Government began by cutting educational programmes in the arts. They are now neglecting the grass-roots of theatre while spending £800m on the Dome. Yet while they neglect it, they



Alan Ayckbourn, outside his Stephen Joseph Theatre in Scarborough: 'I must see how thinly I can spread the jam to maintain a viable operation'

J Angerson

never stop telling us what a fine job they are doing. Grants are increased, says the Minister. But by the time the increase has been processed through all the various quangos, it often ends up as less than inflation. Is this policy a mistake? The gap between what is said to be done and what is actually done (the most characteristic failing of this Government) grows wider and wider. And without a coherent opposition, the case for anything "off-message" – and certainly the needs of the regional theatre – will never be put.

The Government makes great play about accessibility, educational schemes, low seat prices and all manner of outreach projects. They don't seem to recognise that all those laudable aims were invented and pursued in the Sixties. They were checked in the Seventies (by recession and Thatcher), starved in the Eighties and almost destroyed in the Nineties. The arts world doesn't need lecturing about what to do: they need the resources to enable them to do it.

When the entire Drama Panel of the Arts Council resigned last year because they were faced with a future of minimal influence, over 60 subsidised theatre directors out of a possible 65 met in London to support the Panel. As the current arts climate was discussed, one director pointed out that 30 to 40 per cent of

the organisations represented were unlikely to be in existence in two years' time. The Government or the Arts Council has done nothing since to lighten this black prediction.

For some months, a group of leading artists (and there is almost no one of consequence who has not given support) have held meetings to consider the need for an Arts Rally – something like the Countryside Rally. The aim was to raise public consciousness about what is being done to our arts. However, as more and more bad news came in from educationalists and arts organisations, it was obvious that a rally was too general an aim. Something more specific had to be done.

It was therefore decided to form a Shadow Arts Council. Its organisation would be simple: a phone and fax number available to any journalist or member of the public who had a story of arts deprivation. Its aim would be to promote public discussion and co-ordinate the response of the artistic community. When the Government decides our children need less music in our schools, it is not left to Simon Rattle to fight the battle on his own.

There was an experienced voice at our meeting. "Don't," he said, "announce all the names of artists who are supporting this idea. Keep some of them as surprises because the Government will assuredly start to spin against every member the

moment it is announced. By discrediting them, they will seek to marginalise them."

I found it hard to take this Kafkaesque reading of modern politics seriously, but now I'm not so sure. Subsequent events have proved to me the absolute necessity of this initiative.

The week before last, I used the Olivier Awards as a platform to announce the Shadow Arts Council. Within 10 minutes of stepping off the stage, I was being accused of sour grapes; the initiative was merely a personal response to the Arts Council's refusal of a grant to enable me to continue my work with a repertory company at the Old Vic (thank you, Chris Smith). By Monday, my criticisms were being dismissed as predictable and perennial whinge (thank you, Alan Howarth, on Today). The following day both

fibres were combined in the same article (thank you, Melvyn Bragg, in The Guardian). In their alacrity to dismiss me, they don't seem to notice or care that the two accusations are mutually exclusive. Either I am a long-term and indiscriminate whinger or a slighted loser in this year's funding round – they should choose which. The absurdity of Melvyn's thesis was revealed by another full-page article on the same day in the same paper: "Arts Council of England Rhetoric – Pity About the Grants."

In the last week I have been overwhelmed by the supportive phone calls and faxes from regional theatres – and these are just the ones who happen to have my home numbers. Jill Frazer wrote from the Watermill Theatre, Newbury – a tiny but important powerhouse. "Our potential deficit this year is large – but it is not brought about by bad management but by gross under-funding which cannot be justified when the productivity of the theatre and the quality of the work is examined. Like many small organisations, we get sidelined in favour of the established clientele – but without support for us and our like, a vital course of bricks in the structure of theatre will be destroyed for good."

I had news from Alan Ayckbourn whose flourishing theatre (although the local authority won't admit it) has for years kept Scarborough on the map. In spite of Chris Smith's claims for a brave new world of subsidy, the actual increase to Scarborough is £14,000. This 3.5 per cent means nothing after the years of Tory deprivation. Ayckbourn said: "I am in the process of again seeing how thinly I can spread the jam to maintain a viable operation and many of my plans are going to have to be altered and people disappointed."

The story is the same everywhere. At Harrogate, at the insistence of the Yorkshire Arts

Association, Sheena Wrigley was brought in as new management to sort the theatre out. She has succeeded remarkably and has been rewarded (again by the Yorkshire Arts Association) with an increased grant of £5,300. This means they can do three productions a year plus the Pantomime, and their director, Bob Swain, is only needed for eight months of the year. His contract has been adjusted accordingly.

"The bad news continued from small theatres," Nicola Thorold, Director of the Independent Theatre Council said. "55 per cent of small and mid-scale companies are on standstill funding. For many of them it is for the fifth or sixth year in a row."

I believe that the new Arts Council has decided to let the delicate ecology of regional theatres wither. We are well into an agenda of neglect. What can be done? Use us at the Shadow Arts Council; write to your MP; write to Chris Smith. Every theatre whose increase in grant has been negligible should write to The Independent so that real facts can replace propaganda.

Noise will have to be the answer because noise can still be heard. We may not have much of an Opposition but we do, thank goodness, still live in a democracy where issues can be raised. We must all speak up to save the regional theatres. We must do it for our children.

RIGHT OF REPLY

BRIAN BARKER QC



The Chairman of the Criminal Bar Association responds to an article by Lord Irvine in last week's legal section

WHEN THIS newspaper scooped its competitors late last year with an exclusive about the Government's plans to set up a controversial Criminal Defence Service, the proposal was greeted with a universal raspberry. This week the plan was thrown out by cross-party Peers in the Lords.

With good reason: the evidence from the United States of salaried public defenders is chilling. Research shows that as state control increases, lawyers fight shy of fearlessly asserting their client's case.

The justice system becomes geared to administrative convenience and cost-cutting. This leads to a second-rate system of justice, a culture of uncontested cases and plea-bargaining, where criminals are treated leniently, and the innocent are punished for fear of a more severe sentence.

Worst of all, the justice system can become a tool of the state, capable of being used cynically by the authorities to control socially excluded communities at the margins of society.

The Lord Chancellor's objectives for this US import remained confused: on the one hand the CDS will provide a benchmark for costs; on the other it will fill-in gaps in provision, creating locum lawyers in rural areas or the inner cities. Then he talks of "incremental changes" and "piloting schemes". He needs to come clean on his real intention.

Lord Irvine says he wants to control costs. We agree. After considerable work by the Bar Council, we are moving to a system where all barristers' fees in criminal cases are fixed in advance by the Government. We welcome that: what we want is cost control not state control.

A skewed take on feminism

THIS COLLECTION of essays claims that "it may come as quite a shock" to realise that young women from their teens to their early thirties are "still so passionate about feminism". The claim requires some qualification. For a start, the contributors to *On the Move* are hardly representative of young women today. Apart from MP Oona King, the remaining eight adults, plus the editor, are successful journalists or writers; the five teenagers, aged 15 to 18, are editors at the news agency, Children's Express, with privileged experience of the national media. Their backgrounds can sometimes skew their take on feminism.

The media presentation of women bulks large. Katherine Viner and Annalissa Forna rightly criticise the Page 3 antics of high-profile personalities like Ulrika Jonsson and Anthea Turner. But irritating as such self-promotion is, whether it is "empowering" or not is a trivial issue beside the 1.4m women in Britain who earn less than



MONDAY BOOK

ON THE MOVE: FEMINISM FOR A NEW GENERATION
EDITED BY NATASHA WALTER
VIRAGO, £9.99

the proposed minimum wage. As Oona King shows, women still account for most of the world's poorest people.

A professional woman's bias is clearest in Helen Wilkinson's essay. It celebrates Margaret Thatcher as a power-feminist role model and creator of free-market feminism. Bully for the Nicola Horlicks of this world, but their exceptional success does nothing in itself to alter structures in which female oppression shores up male privilege. Transforming these structures has been the central project of political feminism. Of course, different analyses have produced different feminisms, but none of them

boils down to the demand that some women should be as rich and powerful as some men.

Wilkinson slates feminists for seeing the glass as half-empty when they point out that the vaunted "feminisation of labour" consists of low-paid casual or part-time jobs. Instead, she stresses women's advance in the professions, in self-employment and in the "DIY culture of self-promotion". She even acclaims the loss of manufacturing jobs and erosion of union power as gains for feminism, because women have become breadwinners in many working-class families. Quoting Charlotte Raven, Oona King writes: "Half-full is plenty – as long as you don't have to share it with anyone else".

The teenagers share Wilkinson's stance. They all think that feminism (meaning "equality") has largely been achieved; that they will have professional careers minus sexual discrimination; and that there will be no problem combining this with motherhood. Almost all are anxious to distance themselves from bra-burners, dykes and man-haters. How seriously should we take them? They are a self-selected coterie, their contributions cobbled together from answers in peer interviews to seemingly identical questions. They also tend to tell their interlocutors what they think they want to hear: parroting slogans picked up from home, school and the media.

It's hard not to feel that these girls have swallowed the fourth estate's line that feminism has won and women can have it all. They seem most personal and poignant when talking about their



Is Lady Thatcher really a role-model for all women? Peter Macdonald

families, and the families they hope for. Although "housewife" is a dirty word, all want children, but insist on two parents "married for life". Even feisty women earning enough to employ nannies and cleaners will be hard put to make that dream come true.

By contrast, other contributions prove that feminism still has political force. Julie Bindel's piece is outstanding. In a critical history of her involvement as a working-class lesbian in the women's movement since 1979, she shows how feminist campaigners now build coalitions with other groups in campaigns against male violence, using the very media which distorted and dissipated political feminism. Justice for Women, founded by Bindel, was instrumental in freeing Sara Thornton and Emma Humphreys.

As Stephanie Theobald's witty essay on lesbians shows, other fronts remain untouched by the "gender-quake". In Livi Michael's harrowing portrayal of the new poverty of single unemployed mothers, Thatcherite economic policy is the main culprit.

But Livi Michael also argues that it has encouraged middle-class complacency: social justice is no longer a feminist issue.

The book's message, however, remains determinedly upbeat – even if we are all qualifying ourselves now as power feminists, new feminists, post-feminists or even feminists who can't or won't say they're feminists. It's oddly reminiscent of New Labour: compare Tony Blair's notion that we're all middle-class now, and the coy retreat from socialism to "social-ism". Of course, the claim to newness is not only spin, but a staple ploy for generating copy. The problem is that it can both mask and unwittingly promote the anti-feminist backlash.

At its worst, new feminism suggests "femin-ism", a courtesy hyphen for those who are no longer radical, or never were, to dress up the joys of sex and shopping as right-on politics. The new generation of women needs some hard analysis, and more awareness of feminism's history.

LINDA HOLT

MONDAY POEM

THE PARTY

BY ROBERT MINHINNICK

When a pig was killed everything was eaten;
Only the bristling hide dispensable,
And that was scalded and scraped off.
Pig-killing day meant a party in the village,
Cider and stone-inger unstopped
When the working ceased, the familiar
Talk of the slaughter-man wiping his
Blades on dockleaves, pig-blood dark as blackberries
Trodden into the dust. And then
A joke, or ritual, alarming to some:
The youngest child placed inside the split carcass.
And lifted out laughing from the wound's long slot.

Our poems today and tomorrow come from Robert Minhinnick's 'Selected Poems' (Carcanet Press, £6.95).

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Baby Elephant by Philip Meech Ref. 00102

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Sheila Hawkins

SHEILA HAWKINS was one of the most innovative children's illustrators of her generation. Among the earliest artists to contribute to the seminal series of Puffin Picture Books, she embodied the Puffin philosophy: she used striking design and draughtsmanship both to educate and entertain.

Her abilities as painter and writer also ensured that each of her books had visual and verbal substance. Born a rural Australian, in 1905, she had grounding in a very particular environment which equipped her with a valuable and singular expertise, and enabled her to imbue even her most comic drawings with a tangible sense of reality.

Hawkins spent her early childhood in the bush, and there amassed a large collection of animals and insects. During the First World War, she moved with her family to Perth and then Melbourne, attending Torak College and studying briefly at Melbourne Art School. Financial hardship forced her to take what she considered unappealing work as a commercial artist, and she was able to paint only in her spare time.

In 1931, Hawkins left Australia for Europe, spending a year in Spain and then settling in England, where she lived, almost without a break, for the remainder of her life. She soon became the first woman to be employed in the famous advertising studio of Shell Mex. However, while looking for work, in Depression-hit London, she had written and illustrated her first children's book, *Black Tuppenny* (1932), about a small child who visits London to see the King. Its successful reception encouraged her to develop in this vein and it is as a children's illustrator that she made her name.

During a brief marriage, to Max Bowden in 1934, Hawkins created her second, and more characteristic book, *Ena-Meena-Mina-Mo and Benjamin* (1935), which drew on memories of a childhood holiday picking fruit in Tasmania. Then in her third book, *Pepto* (1938), inspired by her experiences of Spain, she established her ability for strong design and layout. She was immediately rewarded, for her following ground-breaking book, *Appleby John, the Miller's Lad* (also 1938), printed entirely in offset lithography, was praised at the Times Book of the Year Show.

Hawkins revealed in *Little Grey*

Colo (1939) how much she had become acclimatised to England, and how much she could mediate the Australian experience for the juvenile English reader; for it has been said that the bush setting for these adventures of a koala more closely resembled Kensington Gardens.

Yet a decade later, her illustrations to *Bush Holiday* (1948) by Dale Collins were praised by the author for their authenticity: "These pictures are almost uncannily the scenes which remain bright in my memory... This effect is really quite weird - just as if I were revisiting the actual scenes in a dream." Despite the fact that she had produced these illustrations during a cold English winter, she could always, if required, depict the essence of antipodean atmosphere.

In 1939, Hawkins began a collaboration with another writer, Geraldine Elliot, on *The Long Grass of Whispers*, the initial volume of a series of retellings of African folk tales. This confirmed her talent for humorous animal illustration, and led to her becoming one of the first artists to contribute to Puffin Picture Books with her adaptation of *Aesop's Fables* (1942). However, she continued to illustrate her own original texts, as with *Bruzy Bear* and *The Cabin Boy* (1940) and stories concerning the Bear Brothers (1941, 1942).

A career as an illustrator did not inhibit Hawkins entirely from working as a painter, and in the late 1930s she exhibited at the Goupil Gallery and with the Society of Women Artists. Following the outbreak of the Second World War, she worked unofficially to produce a mural of the activities of Australian forestry units in Scotland, and drawings of women operating the coal barges on London canals. Then, as an official artist for the Australian Air Force, she painted portraits of airmen.

The second of her contributions to Puffin Picture Books affirmed her identity as an Australian artist, for *Animals of Australia* (1947) has great authority. This is manifest even in the degree to which she stretched accurate natural history drawing towards lightly humorous anthropomorphism. One strip of illustrations shows a young koala trying to jump from tree to tree: it is captioned "Can I?" "Yes" "I" "think" "I can!"

In 1948, Hawkins finally made a return trip to Australia, and remained there for four years. During that period, she produced a coloured strip for the *Sydney Morning Herald*, based on her earlier book *Bruzy Bear* and *The Cabin Boy*; she illustrated the *New South Wales School Magazine*, and she designed six posters for schools on Australian birds, commissioned by Vincent Serventy.

Back in London, in 1951, *The Times Educational Supplement* reviewed an exhibition of Hawkins's paintings at the Geoffrey Museum and, in doing so, neatly encapsulated her art in the phrase, "She fantasiticates animals exactly into a children's idiom."

Hawkins sustained this view of herself through the 1950s with some of her most successful collaborations. Her work with Peggy Barnard on *Wish and*



Hawkins illustrated her first children's book in 1932

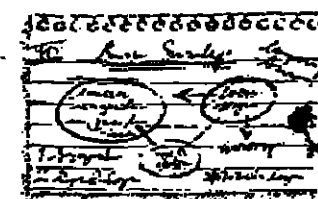
the Magic Nut (1956) won a Picture Book of the Year Award. And late in the decade, her illustrations to a series of books by Aaron Judah, including *The Adventures of Henrietta Hen* (1958) and *Basil Chimpy Isn't Bright* (1959), showed her at the height of her powers. In the early 1960s, she again applied her confident yet relaxed draughtsmanship to a strip cartoon, "Little Colo", which appeared in the weekly magazine *Mother*.

Continuing to illustrate into the mid-1960s, Hawkins maintained her distinctive balance between educational and imaginative projects, her last books being Robert Nye's retellings of Welsh traditional tales *March Has Horse's Ears* and *Tulliesin* and Maurice Burton's *More Animals* (all 1966).

However, she became gradually disillusioned by the constraints of the career of an illustrator, and worked increasingly as a painter. She exhibited landscapes and abstracts regularly as a member of both the Society of Free Painters and Sculptors and the Ridley Society and, until the beginning of this present decade, mounted solo shows. Her range of talents and her dedication would have made her a distinguished exponent of any art that she practised.

DAVID WOOTTON

Sheila Hawkins, artist, writer and children's illustrator: born Kalgoorlie, Western Australia 20 August 1905; married 1934 Max Bowden (deceased); one daughter; marriage dissolved; died London 10 January 1999.



MUSICAL NOTES

BRIAN REES

A proposal: Saint-Saëns - the movie

THERE WAS a time some years ago when Hollywood was fixated on the lives of the great Romantic composers. Success would be illustrated by shots of the wheels of express trains roaring across the screen while the sound track played the urgent sections of a musical score. A masterpiece, written amidst a tale of emotional strain, would achieve a final triumph to standing ovations and moist eyes.

Today the lives of composers and artists come under closer psychological scrutiny on-screen and questions of failure and success have become more complicated. The disappearance of Camille Saint-Saëns from the celebrity he once enjoyed - save for a few popular works - has robbed him from such posthumous fame, though it is certain that his reactions to it would have been more caustic than most.

His pianoforte debut in 1846, in Paris at the age of 10, survived in legend throughout his life. He toured Europe as its greatest organist and one of its three greatest pianists. As composer he endured opposition and bitter criticism in the peculiarly fevered Paris of his day. Fellow critics would openly express the hope that his opera *Le Timbre d'Argent* from the pen of "a grotesque dwarf" would be hissed off the stage. After years of frustration his carefully wrought masterpiece *Samson and Delilah*

was eventually produced in Weimar under Liszt; only four Frenchmen were present. It had to wait a further 18 years, applauded everywhere but Paris, before it was admitted to the stage of the prestigious Paris Opéra.

But eventually he enjoyed a popular and critical acclamation whose dimensions probably only Hollywood could finance on screen. At the Aréna in the French town of Béziers, 10,000 spectators surged down the aisles cheering his score for the verse-drama *Dejanire*, with its spectacular scenic resurrection of the Persian Empire and the huge forces he conducted: the military bands and an orchestra with 18 harps, placed against the skyline, and an array of 25 trumpets.

In 1915, when he was representing wartime France at the San Francisco Exhibition, word spread that the composer of the "Organ" Symphony was present; there were spontaneous calls for him to appear and eventually the whole audience of 4,000 rose to cheer and look in wonderment upon a figure whose long life extended back almost to days of Beethoven and Schubert.

And what of the psychological interest? The young Saint-Saëns had proposed to Augusta Holmes, the beautiful and talented singer-composer admired by Liszt and Wagner and a host of poets and artists. His proposal had been sweetly ig-

nored. Married later to a girl he hardly knew, on the suggestion of her brother (the situation re-surfaced obliquely in his opera *Proserpine*), the union collapsed after the deaths of two sons, his only children, one resulting from a dramatic and tragic fall from a high apartment window.

After the death of his masterful mother, a life of constant travel ensued. At one point he disappeared into the scale later attached to Lord Lucan, for the premiere of his *Ascanio* was a prime event of the season at the Paris Opéra. In old age his relationships with his valets, the presence of young attendant Arabs, and his embargo on publishing his correspondence gave rise to the kind of rumours which it is the current fashion to explore.

Nor would the soundtrack disappoint. A treasury of concertos, operas and festival cantatas remain little known or totally neglected. He was also, of course, the first serious composer ever to write a film score, in the early days of the cinema: *The Murder of the Duke of Guise*. This alone should surely ensure him special sympathetic treatment from some generous studio.

Brian Rees is the author of *Camille Saint-Saëns: a life* (Chatto & Windus, 23 February, £25)

CASE SUMMARIES

22 FEBRUARY 1999

THE FOLLOWING notes of judgments were prepared by the reporters of the *All England Law Reports*.

Criminal injuries

R v Secretary of State for the Home Department and another, ex p C; QBD, Crown Office List (Nigel Fleming QC sitting as a deputy High Court judge) 3 Feb 1999.

IT WAS not unlawful for the Secretary of State to produce a scheme for compensation for criminal injuries under which a "single incident" could cover non-consensual intercourse by two or more attackers, and which therefore necessarily embraced the possibility of more than one assault, by more than one person, in the course of that single incident. The scheme clearly fell within the statutory framework provided by the Criminal Injuries Compensation Act 1995. Elizabeth Woodcraft (Sinnott Associates) for the applicant; Alice Robinson (Treasury Solicitor) for the Secretary of State.

Waste disposal

R v North Yorkshire County Council, ex p Scarborough Borough Council; QBD, Crown Office List (Collins J) 8 Feb 1999.

IN R(2) of the Environmental Protection (Waste Recycling Payments) Regulations 1992, which provided that the payment which a waste disposal authority was required by s 52(1) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 to make to a waste collection authority for the recycling of waste should be calculated by reference to the disposal authority's "most expensive disposal method for waste collected in the relevant

area", the word "method" referred to a particular disposal contract, not to the general mode of disposal.

Richard Langham (Borough Solicitor) for the applicant; William Upton (County Head of Legal Services) for the respondent.

Highway

Ward Construction (Medway) Ltd v Kent County Council; CA (Henry, Ward LJ, Sir Christopher Staughton) 5 Feb 1999.

THE WORDS "towards the expenses incurred in... executing the said works" in s 278 of the Highways Act 1980 were not limited to the cost of building and engineering work, but also included the cost of acquisition of land where that was necessary for the execution of the works. It was clear that developers who entered into agreements with highway authorities under s 278 were to make contributions based on the total cost of the works, including acquisition costs. Malcolm Spence QC, Adrian Trevelyan Thomas, Thomas Lowe (Sharpe Pritchard as London agents for Kent County Council) for the council; Gerard Ryan QC, Rodney Stewart-Smith (Kingsley Smith & Co, Chatham) for the respondents.

Legal aid

R v Legal Aid Board, ex p Reseigh; QBD, Crown Office List (Moses J) 4 Feb 1999.

WHEN CONSIDERING an application for legal aid, the Legal Aid Board was entitled to consider the jurisdiction of the small claims court, which was founded on the value of the claim, before considering the complexity of the case and the applicant's circumstances. If the claim fell within the small claims jurisdiction, the next

step was to determine whether the applicant should nevertheless have legal aid in the light of the circumstances.

Josephine Henderson (Moss & Co) for the applicant; Jacan Herbert (Legal Aid Board Legal Department) for the Board.

Solicitor

Gregory v Shepherds (a firm); Chancery Division (Judge Behrens sitting as a deputy High Court judge) 8 Feb 1999.

WHERE A Spanish lawyer instructed by an English solicitor in connection with a property transaction in Spain carried out his instructions negligently, his negligence could not be imputed to the English solicitor. The Spanish lawyer's services were not part and parcel of the services provided by the English solicitor; he was an independent Spanish legal expert instructed by the English solicitor on behalf of the client, and not the solicitor's agent. Katherine Holland (Peckering Butlers) for the plaintiff; Richard Wolford (Wansbroughs Willey Hargrave) for the defendant.

Sentencing

R v Gloucester Crown Court, ex p McGee; QBD, Div Ct (Lord Bingham CJ, Brian Smedley J) 1 Feb 1999.

IT WAS doubtful whether it would ever be appropriate for a Crown Court, on appeal to lengthen a sentence imposed by a magistrates' court in order to ensure supervision of the defendant upon release. Accordingly, the decision to increase the defendant's sentence from six months to 12 months imprisonment would be quashed. Edward Burgess (Godd & Partners, Cheltenham) for the applicant; the respondent did not appear.

GAZETTE

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

DEATHS

LAMB: Pansy, lately of Rome, peacefully with her family in London, on 19 February 1999, aged 94. Funeral Mass at Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Kensington Church Street, at 10.45am on Friday 26 February.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Duke of Edinburgh attends a CRASH (the construction and property industry's charity for the single homeless) Dinner at St James's Palace. The Duke of Kent, Patron, British Menswear Guild, attends the MXL Exhibition and Prize-giving, Earls Court, London SW5, and presents the prizes for the European Window Display Competition.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am; No 7 Company Coldstream Guards mounts the Queen's Guard, at Buckingham Palace, 11.30am, band provided by the Irish Guards.

BIRTHDAYS

The Duchess of Kent, 66; Mr Brian Beazer, former chairman and chief executive, Beazer plc, 64; Sir Michael Cobham, life president, Cobham, 72; Miss Judy Cornwell, actress, 57; Mr Joseph Etteggui, fashion designer, 63; Professor Sir Brian Follett, Vice-Chancellor, Warwick University, 60; Mr Bruce Forsyth, entertainer, 71; Miss Deborah Grant, actress, 52; Miss Sheila Hancock, actress, 66; Sir David Jack, pharmacologist, 75; Mr Peter Jacobs, chief executive, Bupa, 56; Mr Edward Kennedy, US senator, 67; Sir Brian Kerr, a judge of the High Court of Justice, Northern Ireland, 51; Sir John Kerr, Permanent Under-Secretary of State, and Head of the Diplomatic Service, 57; Miss Patricia Lancaster, former Headmistress, Wycombe Abbey School, 70; Mr Niki Landa, motor-racing champion, 50; Miss Frances Line, former controller, BBC Radio 2, 59; Mr Devon Malcolm, cricketer, 36; Sir Christopher Meyer, ambassador to the United States, 55; Sir John Mills, actor, director and producer, 91; Mr Noel Murphy, rugby player, 62; Mr Tom Okker, tennis player, 58; Mr Richard Page MP, 58; Mr Nigel Planer, actor, 48; Air Marshal Graeme Robertson, Chief of Staff and Deputy Commander-in-Chief, Strike Command, 54; Lt Gen the Hon Sir William Rons, former Quarter Master Gen-

eral, Ministry of Defence, 60; Sir William Slack, consultant surgeon, 74; Mr Ian Stark, showjumper, 45; Lord Strathclyde, Opposition Chief Whip in the House of Lords, 39; Miss Julie Walters, actress, 49; Mr Samuel Whitbread, Lord-Lieutenant of Bedfordshire, 62.

ANNIVERSARIES

Births: Laszlo V (Ladislav) or Ladislav Posthumus, boy King of Hungary, 1440; George Washington, first US President, 1732; Johann Nikolaus Forkel, organist, 1749; Gilbert Wakefield, classical scholar, 1756; Arthur Schopenhauer, philosopher, 1788; Niels Wilhelm Gade, composer, 1817; James Russell Lowell, poet and diplomat, 1819; Sir Robert Stephenson Smyth Baden-Powell, first Baron Baden-Powell, founder of the Boy Scouts, 1857; Heinrich Rudolph Hertz, physicist, 1857; Norman Alfred William Lindsay, cartoonist, illustrator and novelist, 1879; Arthur Eric Rowton Gill, artist, sculptor and typographer, 1882; Marguerite Clark, actress, 1883; Lew Cody (Louis Joseph Cote), actor, 1884; Olive St Clair, Lady Baden-Powell, World Chief Guide from 1930, 1888; Edna St Vincent Millay, poet, 1892; Luis Buñuel, film director, 1900; Robert George Young, actor, 1907; Romulo Betancourt, statesman, 1908; Warren Stanley Tute, novelist, sailor and playwright, 1914.

Deaths: Amerigo Vespucci, navigator, 1512; Govaert Flinck, painter, 1660; John Wilson, lutenist, singer and composer, 1674; James Barry, historical painter, 1806; Dr Adam Ferguson, philosopher and historian, 1816; Sydney Smith, social reformer, 1845; Sir William Allan, painter, 1850; Jean-Baptiste-Camille Corot, painter, 1875; Sir Charles Lyell, geologist, 1875; Sir Leslie Stephen, biographer, writer and editor, 1904; Stefan Zweig, writer, 1942; Elizabeth Dorothea Cole Bowen, novelist, 1973; Oskar Kokoschka, painter and playwright, 1980; Andy Warhol (Andrew Warhola), pop artist and film-maker, 1987; Glenway Wescott, novelist and poet, 1987.

On this day: Robert II acceded to the throne of Scotland, 1370; the Westminster Assembly ended, 1648; the last invasion of Britain took place when the French landed at Fishguard, and were made prisoners, 1797; Florida was ceded to the US by Spain, 1819; Frank Winfield Woolworth opened his first "five-and-ten-cent-store", at Ulica, New York, 1879; the first British cinema to be built, the Central Hall, Colne, Lancashire, opened, 1906; the National Council for Civil Liberties was founded, 1934; Dr Selman Abraham Waksman announced his discovery of streptomycin, 1946; an IRA bomb attack at Alder shot killed seven people, 1972; Pakistan recognised

the independence of Bangladesh, 1974.

Today is the Feast Day of St Baradates. St Margaret of Cortona and Saints Thalasius and Limnaeus.

LECTURES

Victoria and Albert Museum: Martin Barnes, "Photography in the 19th Century at Home and Abroad", 2pm. British Museum: Joe Cribb, "Japanese Shadow Puppets: the Raffles collection", 11.30am. Royal Academy of Arts, at the Society of Antiquaries, London W1: Professor John House, "The Subject Matter of Late Monet", 1pm. Wallace Collection, London W1: Patricia Falkner, "Art and Myth in the Wallace Collection", 1pm. Gresham Lecture, Bernard's Inn Hall, London EC1: Professor David May, "From Calculating Machines to Wearable Computers", 1pm.

SIR GEORGE WALLER

A Memorial Service for Sir George Waller OBE will be held in Gray's Inn Chapel, London WC1, on Monday 29 March at 5pm.

MY THREE tokens yielded a copy of *Uncut* and its interview with Bob Dylan. It must have been weird to perform with Gregory Peck? "Well, listen, everything's weird. You tell me something that's not weird."

WORDS

CHRISTOPHER HAWTREE

weird, adj., v. and n.

weird, it has got weird over the centuries. Originally Old English *wyrd*, it was destiny or the ability to predict it, and is a crux in Mac-

beth: both *weyward* and *weyward* sisters figure (amended by Theobald to *weird*), and so wayward events are *weird* - actual, madcap events rather than probable events of any hue.

But *Uncut's* cover-disc has weirded my life: I shall be buying Dave Alvin CDs. *Weird* to have missed him. A veritable Dylan.

Oh no, you can't do that: it might be fun

ONE OF our bars here in the sweet and orderly little town of New Hampshire in which I live recently placed small printed notices in plastic holders on each of the tables – the sort of notices that normally invite you to order a jug of pina colodas at a special price or perhaps join mine hosts Chip and Tiffany for their convivial daily happy hour.

However, far from inviting anyone to engage in anything as hedonistic as that, what these notices said was this: "We take our responsibility to the community seriously. Therefore we are introducing a policy of limiting each customer to a maximum of three drinks. We thank you for your understanding and co-operation."

When a bar starts telling you that you must leave after as little as three bottles of beer – that's about one and a half English pints – you know something is going on. The problem isn't that townsfolk here in Hanover have been disgracing themselves, you understand. The problem is that they might enjoy themselves more than the modest amount that is deemed socially acceptable in this challenging age in which we live.

HL Mencken once defined Puritanism as "the haunting fear that someone, somewhere, may be happy". It was 70 years ago that he said it, but it is as true today as it was then. Everywhere you turn in America these days you encounter a strange and insistent kind of nannying, as in these preposterous new notices in our local bar.

The thing is, the notices are in any case completely unnecessary. I have discovered to my dismay that when an American friend invites you out for a beer that is exactly what he means – a beer. You sip it delicately for about 45 minutes until it is gone and then your companion says, "Hey, that was fun. Let's do it again next year." I don't know anybody – anybody who would be so foolish as to consume three drinks at a sitting. All the people I know barely drink at all, never touch tobacco, watch their cholesterol as if it were HIV positive, jog up to Canada and back about twice a day, and go to bed early. Now that is all very sensible and I know they will outlive me by decades, but it isn't much fun. And Americans these days find the most extraordinary

things to worry about. Newspaper reviews of movies, for instance, nearly always end with a paragraph noting what qualifies the film contains that viewers may find disturbing – violence, sexual content, strong language, and so on. That seems unobjectionable enough in principle, but what is remarkable is the things the papers believe worthy of inclusion. The *New York Times* recently concluded a review of a new Chevy Chase movie with this sombre warning: "Vegas Vacation is rated PG (Parental Guidance suggested). Besides sexual suggestiveness, it shows rattlesnakes and gambling."

Oh well, that's out, then. The *Los Angeles Times* meanwhile, warns its readers that *As Good as It Gets* contains "strong language and thematic elements" (whatever they are), while *Mouse Hunt* has "mayhem, comic sensuality and language". Not strong language or suggestive language, but just "language". My God, think of it. Language in a movie! Not to mention mayhem. And to think I nearly took the children.

There is, in short, a huge and preposterous disquiet in the land



BRYSON'S AMERICA

about almost everything. The bookshops and best-seller lists are full of books like Robert Bork's *Slouching to Gomorrah*, suggesting that America is on the brink of some catastrophic moral collapse. Among the literally hundreds of things Bork is worried about are "the angry activists of homosexuality, feminism, environmentalism (and) animal rights". Oh, please. Things that would raise barely a flicker in other countries are here looked upon as almost dangerously licentious. Recently, a woman in Hartford, Connecticut, was threatened with arrest when a security guard saw her breast-feeding her baby – discreetly, mind you, with a baby blanket over her shoulder

and her back turned to the world – in her car in a remote corner of a restaurant car park. She had left the restaurant and gone to her car to feed the baby because it was more private – but not private enough. Someone with binoculars might have glimpsed what she was doing, and, well, you can imagine the consequences for a stable and orderly society.

Meanwhile, in Boulder, Colorado, which has one of the strictest anti-smoking ordinances in America (ie, they shoot you), an actor in an amateur stage production was threatened with arrest, if you can believe it, for smoking a cigarette on stage during a performance, as his part required. Smoking is of course the great forbidden activity these days. Light up a cigarette almost anywhere in America now and you are looked upon as a pariah. Light up indoors in a public place and you will be swept upon by a phalanx of security people.

Many states – Vermont and California to name two – have laws making it illegal to smoke virtually anywhere indoors, apart from private residences, and often even outdoors. Now I'm all

for discouraging smoking, but increasingly this is getting carried to neurotic and even sinister extremes. A company here in New Hampshire recently instituted a policy that any employee who is suspected of having smoked a cigarette within 45 minutes of coming to work faces dismissal, even if he was smoking within the privacy of his own home, on his own time, with government-approved smoking materials.

But the most amazing thing of all is that even young people are voluntarily relinquishing fun. One of the most astounding stories I have encountered lately was a report in the *Boston Globe* that two college fraternity organisations – live-in clubs for university students – are banning intoxicating beverages of all kinds from their chapters. If any student is found on the premises with a single can of beer – no matter that he may be legally entitled by age to own it and drink it – he will be instantly dismissed, and if the fraternity house itself dares to organise a function involving so much as a thimble of sherry, it will be shut down without appeal.

When I was young the whole

apparent purpose of fraternities was to keep America's breweries humming. You could judge the quality of a fraternity by the number of bodies on the lawn on a Saturday night. Now I am not arguing for unbridled alcoholic consumption at universities (actually I am, but we'll pretend I'm not). But to suggest that a bunch of students can't knock back a few beers on graduation day, or after a big football victory, or upon the conclusion of final exams, or what the hell, whenever they want, seems to me ludicrously puritanical.

Astonishingly, all but one of the several students quoted in the article favoured the proposal. "It's about time we had a policy like this," said one priggish young scholar from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, who, in my view, wants a good sound slapping. Call me heartless, but I hope the next movie he sees has scenes involving rattlesnakes, gambling, thematic elements and language, and that it disturbs the dickens out of him. Wouldn't that just serve him right?

Notes from a Big Country by Bill Bryson (Doubleday £16.99)

'I never liked being myself'

FAMILY AFFAIR

Singer and songwriter Howard Jones made his name in the 1980s with hits like *What Is Love*, and *Like to Get to Know You Well*. His latest single is *Let The People Have Their Say*. He and his wife Jan live in Reading and have three children, Osheen, 12, Mica, 10, and Jasper, 4. Osheen has acted in the film of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Velvet Goldmine*, and in *Titus Andronicus*

Howard Osheen was conceived on a tour bus travelling from Denver to Salt Lake City. My wife Jan and I slept at the back which you could convert into a double bed. We had been having a wonderful time living in Ireland so we named him Osheen which is the English spelling of an Irish name. Later we thought it would be wonderful if he could experience our lives with us so up until he went to school he came on big tours around the world.

In places like Japan, Osheen would be in his pushchair surrounded by about 30 aunts and uncles – the crew and band. He didn't sleep much as a baby – he's still like that now. I guess he grew up thinking it was normal for people to be playing instruments and singing on stage. That must affect a person.

From a very young age Osheen has been into dressing up and putting on accents, and generally swanning around as different characters. At three years old he said he was going to be an actor. When friends came round he would rush into his room and reappear dressed up in animal costumes, brightly coloured clothes, dresses even.

We thought he'd like to go to Saturday drama classes at a local theatre school. Through the school he came to audition for the Royal Shakespeare Company who were doing a film of their production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Then

he had a small part in *Velvet Goldmine* with Ewan McGregor. After that he was cast as Sir Anthony Hopkins' grandson in *Titus Andronicus* which he's just finished filming in Rome. I was on tour in America but the rest of the family went out to be with Osheen. He had a tutor from nine to five but he missed his friends and found night shoots hard because he had to stay up until 4am. We'd talk daily on the phone and I'd say to him, "There's only a few more weeks to go now. Once you see the film you'll be so proud of your work."

Jan and I talk constantly about what it means to have a son who is a child actor. If you believe that people get born to certain families for a reason, we believe that Osheen has ended up in our family because my career has given us so much experience of the media. We know that the big thing is keeping your feet on the ground and not getting all overblown about yourself. I want to help Osheen realise that acting or performing is just another job. We may act or sing but we're still ordinary people. Not everyone may be actors or singers but we use our talent to contribute to society.

Macaulay Culkin and his father are a rather odd story and could not be further away from that. We have always discussed everything openly. With my Buddhist thinking I've never thought of Osheen as a child but as another person.

If Osheen changes his mind and doesn't want to act any more, that's completely fine by us. We certainly won't push him. But I feel that if you

get the opportunity to work with Anthony Hopkins, then as long as you have your family supporting you, it's probably a good thing to do.

Osheen I never liked being myself, I always liked being other people. I don't know why. I've always liked dressing up and acting from a very young age. Quite embarrassing, really. I liked being very posh people. I loved being Lloyd Grossman – I'd do his voice. I meet people now who I knew when I was very young and they say, "I remember you running around saying 'I want to be an actor'."

I thought what dad did was so normal. Now when I see him on stage I think, "Wow, how cool!" But he's still my dad. I think dad and I are very much alike. We both like music, fashion and art, but he's more of a stage person than me. I'm a bit shy. I'm more of a film actor. I went on tour with him in the summer to the United States and had a brilliant time. The first night I went on stage with him he didn't tell me he was going to point the microphone at me and say, "Do your thing."

I was just so happy when I got the part in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. I'd been to three auditions and it got down to two people. I couldn't imagine seeing myself on the screen. Weird! I was wearing pyjamas. Some bits I thought were quite good. In others I think, "Oh, I look terrible. Well, did my hair?" After that I did *Velvet Goldmine*.



Howard Jones with son Osheen: 'I think my Dad is a great person, but I'd rather not be like him'

John Lawrence

I remember walking through the costumes department to try on my outfit, looking at all these outrageous costumes, like platform shoes. I thought, "My God, what am I going to have to wear? What are my friends going to think of me in platform shoes?" I was relieved to learn I had to wear a grey school outfit.

Me and dad talk a lot about the whole business of me being a child actor. If I've had a hard day and I've not been very happy, I'd tell him.

Filming *Titus Andronicus* in Rome I did get very upset because I was missing my friends and I was desperate to go back to school.

Towards the end of the movie I got quite ill. I had a really bad cold and a temperature and I was terribly worried about not being able to fly back to England. On the last day I wanted to fly back early in the morning and go to school in the afternoon. But I missed my flight because I was so ill.

Believe me, making films is not at all glam. Being on a movie set is really boring. I'd just hang around and then they wouldn't use me and I'd get so annoyed. Some days I had to get up really early when I had to have my hair dyed. I'd think, "Oh, God I didn't want this to happen."

Near the end of the movie, I had a scene where I was at a big table full of toy soldiers and food and I had to throw things about. That felt great. In fact, I was so upset, that I

went a bit crazy and I was throwing everything everywhere. That really helped me get it all out.

I like acting but I'd rather not do it now. On that last movie I missed my friends so much that by the end I got depressed. My dad is great, but I don't want to be like him. I'd like to be a really nice person like he is, but be myself. For the moment, I just want to be with my friends at school.

INTERVIEWS BY ANN MCFERRAN

CLASSIFIED

Legal Notices

(Company number: 2280391)

YASUDA PROPERTIES

(UK) LIMITED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a special resolution was passed at a meeting of the Directors of the above-named company, held at 20 St. Pancras Square, London WC2A 9PL, on 18 February 1999, authorising the payment of £15,000,000 out of the capital of the company in respect of the proposed purchase of 15,000,000 ordinary shares of £1 each from The Yasuda Mutual Life Insurance Company. The amount of permissible capital payment is £15,000,000. The directors' declaration and auditors' report are available for inspection at 4th Floor, River Place House, 211 Finsbury Circus, London EC2M 2YA, from the registered office of the company. An auditors' report of the company may apply to the High Court, pursuant to Section 170 of the Companies Act 1985, within 5 weeks immediately following the date of the above-mentioned special resolution passed on 18 February 1999, for an order prohibiting the payment. Dated this 18th day of February 1999.

LONDON BUILDING AND

DRAINAGE LIMITED

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Section 90 of the Companies Act 1985, that a meeting of the directors of the above-named company will be held at 1100 pm on 24th of February 1999 at The Thatched House, 211 Finsbury Circus, London EC2M 2YA, for the purpose of considering and voting on the proposed purchase of 15,000,000 ordinary shares of £1 each from The Yasuda Mutual Life Insurance Company. The amount of permissible capital payment is £15,000,000. The directors' declaration and auditors' report are available for inspection at 4th Floor, River Place House, 211 Finsbury Circus, London EC2M 2YA, from the registered office of the company. An auditors' report of the company may apply to the High Court, pursuant to Section 170 of the Companies Act 1985, within 5 weeks immediately following the date of the above-mentioned special resolution passed on 18 February 1999, for an order prohibiting the payment. Dated this 18th day of February 1999.

BLAY CONTRACTORS

LIMITED

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Section 90 of the Companies Act 1985, that a meeting of the directors of the above-named company will be held at 1100 pm on 24th of February 1999 at The Thatched House, 211 Finsbury Circus, London EC2M 2YA, for the purpose of considering and voting on the proposed purchase of 15,000,000 ordinary shares of £1 each from The Yasuda Mutual Life Insurance Company. The amount of permissible capital payment is £15,000,000. The directors' declaration and auditors' report are available for inspection at 4th Floor, River Place House, 211 Finsbury Circus, London EC2M 2YA, from the registered office of the company. An auditors' report of the company may apply to the High Court, pursuant to Section 170 of the Companies Act 1985, within 5 weeks immediately following the date of the above-mentioned special resolution passed on 18 February 1999, for an order prohibiting the payment. Dated this 18th day of February 1999.

CIS (JOHNSON) LIMITED

LIMITED

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Section 90 of the Companies Act 1985, that a meeting of the directors of the above-named company will be held at 1100 pm on 24th of February 1999 at The Thatched House, 211 Finsbury Circus, London EC2M 2YA, for the purpose of considering and voting on the proposed purchase of 15,000,000 ordinary shares of £1 each from The Yasuda Mutual Life Insurance Company. The amount of permissible capital payment is £15,000,000. The directors' declaration and auditors' report are available for inspection at 4th Floor, River Place House, 211 Finsbury Circus, London EC2M 2YA, from the registered office of the company. An auditors' report of the company may apply to the High Court, pursuant to Section 170 of the Companies Act 1985, within 5 weeks immediately following the date of the above-mentioned special resolution passed on 18 February 1999, for an order prohibiting the payment. Dated this 18th day of February 1999.

THE INSOLVENCY RULES 1986

THE MOTIVATED

COMPANY LIMITED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Rule 4.10 of the Insolvency Rules 1986, that the following notice of the creditors of the above-named company will be held at 1100 pm on 24th of February 1999 at The Thatched House, 211 Finsbury Circus, London EC2M 2YA, for the purpose of considering and voting on the proposed purchase of 15,000,000 ordinary shares of £1 each from The Yasuda Mutual Life Insurance Company. The amount of permissible capital payment is £15,000,000. The directors' declaration and auditors' report are available for inspection at 4th Floor, River Place House, 211 Finsbury Circus, London EC2M 2YA, from the registered office of the company. An auditors' report of the company may apply to the High Court, pursuant to Section 170 of the Companies Act 1985, within 5 weeks immediately following the date of the above-mentioned special resolution passed on 18 February 1999, for an order prohibiting the payment. Dated this 18th day of February 1999.

CIS (HOLDINGS) LIMITED

LIMITED

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Section 90 of the Companies Act 1985, that a meeting of the directors of the above-named company will be held at 1100 pm on 24th of February 1999 at The Thatched House, 211 Finsbury Circus, London EC2M 2YA, for the purpose of considering and voting on the proposed purchase of 15,000,000 ordinary shares of £1 each from The Yasuda Mutual Life Insurance Company. The amount of permissible capital payment is £15,000,000. The directors' declaration and auditors' report are available for inspection at 4th Floor, River Place House, 211 Finsbury Circus, London EC2M 2YA, from the registered office of the company. An auditors' report of the company may apply to the High Court, pursuant to Section 170 of the Companies Act 1985, within 5 weeks immediately following the date of the above-mentioned special resolution passed on 18 February 1999, for an order prohibiting the payment. Dated this 18th day of February 1999.

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The hair apparent

Continued from page 1 made staunchly defending it. "How could you? I don't know if it's apparent to people, but a party is not a group of people all of whom think the same things. It's a group of people who are as different as any other people but come together on a programme that they have in common. And obviously that programme involves compromises." So, no, not someone who'd go out on a limb for his own, individual beliefs.

His ascent was dizzyingly swift. He started in the party's research department in 1976, and soon had the job of meeting Mrs Thatcher first thing every morning, to take her through that day's press. The two adored each other. "Every morning I would tell her all the unhelpful things that had been written in the press. One day, when I read her yet another series of lamentable stories, she said to me: 'You are battering me. Every day you are battering me. Just because I'm leader of the Opposition doesn't mean I don't need a bit of encouragement.' I said: 'Oh, Mrs Thatcher, I'm so sorry. I thought it was my job. I thought I was to tell you the bad things.



Michael Portillo with Victor Stephen Twigg on Election night

I thought I had to put myself in the place of a journalist, and be like Fred Emery (presenter of *Panorama* at the time). Immediately, she went into this very feminine, flirtatious mood and said: 'Oh, no. You're not like Fred Emery. He's not clever!' I don't think Michael has a huge repertoire of stories against himself.

He went on to become Minister for Transport, Minister for Local Government, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, then

Employment and Defence, marrying his teenage sweetheart, Carolyn, who is now a City head-hunter, along the way. They live near Victoria, in central London, and seem to have quite a lifestyle. Neither can cook. "What do we make for dinner? Reservations!" They have no children because Carolyn had cancer in 1984, and the illness left her unable to have any. Has this been painful for them? "It's something you just accept. In general, whatever life

has served up, I haven't found hard to take." Still, he worries for the future. He fears loneliness, he says. Loneliness? "I know I can't be without company for any period at all, and as I don't have children, who knows what the future holds. To be lonely in your old age must be a terrible thing."

He insists that, when he returns, it will probably be as a lowly backbencher. He adds, even, that he considers the leadership now closed to him. "Everything is moving on. There are new people coming through. I'm not being seen in Parliament every day and being tested... my political career is slipping behind..."

Of course, this is absolute nonsense. It even, possibly, serves him well to be outside of things for a few years. It enables him to dissociate himself from the current bunch of losers, and then make a triumphant, king-over-the-water sort of return at a later date. I don't think there is much doubt about this. It's what he's been programmed to do, perhaps at the expense of many other things. So, no, these are not Michael Portillo's wilderness years. He's just, as I said, sniffing the air.

Have I been here before?

Memory loss in the elderly presents architecture with its greatest challenge. How can a building help people who feel permanently lost?
By Nonie Niesewand

At the age of 88, Mrs Reeves started losing it - her purse, the support of family and friends, her mind - so Social Services put her into a terraced house in Tyneside, Newcastle. The house was newly done up by her landlords, the local authority, and she chose her own wallpaper and curtains.

The Dementia Care Initiative, a charitable trust set up by people who care for the elderly, aims to keep old people who are unable to live on their own out of institutions like NHS nursing homes. They call it "normal homes in a normal street" and try to keep clients to their own routines, even though this is very labour intensive. Carers work 24-hour shifts, they don't live in and have to learn to act like visitors - not answering the phone or talking over their clients' heads.

Mrs Reeves shared her living room and kitchen with one other OAP. When Mrs Reeves became agitated and asked to "go home as Mami's waiting for me", the carers took her for a walk to show her that the houses in her area had been pulled down. On the way home she bought some mints and apologised. A year later, when she was hospitalised, she asked to return home - by home, she meant the supported terraced house. But nursing care for bed-ridden patients isn't on offer in any of the five houses, bungalows and semis managed by the Dementia Care Initiative, so she died in hospital. A support worker adopted her cat.

Now the project is up for a National Housing Award. Tomorrow Frank Dobson, Minister for Health and Social Services, will hand out awards for achievements in housing and community care. Up against more fashionable drug and alcohol addiction treatment centres, the Dementia Care Initiative won't win the Roy Griffiths Award for keeping people with special needs off the streets and out of institutionalised care. Nor does it deserve the prize. There is an argument for not locking up the elderly who can no longer live alone in what are euphemistically called "homes", but it is an old-fashioned one.

The elderly and infirm need purpose-built buildings. Lots of them. By 2031, over 41 per cent of Britain will be over 50. Stairlifts whizzing up and down Victorian stairs don't make a house wheelchair friendly. Nor does one-to-one intensive care 24 hours a day make a pair of elderly strangers co-habit happily. One kitchen shared between two connected homes and used by eight inhabitants can cause strife.

"We learn from our mistakes," former nurse and director of DCI Rani Svanberg admits. "At Tyneside, where four flats offer ten tenancies, we thought that all we needed to install was grab rails, bath adaptations and a stairlift for wheelchairs. But even though everyone has their own bedroom, the residents need two separate sitting rooms. So now we are raising money to put on a conservatory."

But even an old people's sun lounge won't make up for the fact that there isn't enough space for the restless and agitated pacing of some Alzheimer's sufferers.

Holistic architecture actually heals. So says the new evidence, presented last week to the NHS Trust which funded it, by the head of architecture at Sheffield University, Dr Bryan Lawson. Daylight, gardens, views and comfort all help patients feel better. No surprises there, but nobody expected the data to reveal that modern conditions in a new environment not only made patients feel better, but in some cases actually get better.

A psychologist as well as an architect, Dr Lawson calls this evidence of the need for a feel-good factor in modern architecture the "phenomenon of

psychological transference". He has medical evidence to prove it, though he won't release it until the NHS does. The Sheffield university team compared old and new architecture in both an acute general hospital and a psychiatric ward. "We were told by experts in the field that asking patients who were ill about the architecture of hospitals was a waste of time. Far from it. They were very articulate."

More important than the colour of the walls is control of the environment. Turning off lights, opening windows and controlling noise levels are all vital to patients' well-being.

In the £4.2m NHS Newhaven Downs House near Brighton, designed by Greg Penoyre and Sunand Prasad, the light switches and plug sockets are at wheelchair level. The pair glory in their Utopian vision and commitment to the public good, and they enjoy working for the public sector. This is immediately apparent in the light-filled entrance to the nursing home, with its capacious club chairs in warm colours.

"Although we did use colour carefully to activate and calm the space - blues in the quiet rooms, yellow in the entrance - far more important to us is the manipulation of space and light, the physicality of the space," Greg Penoyre says. "Only when I took a bunch of people with special needs on a week's walking holiday in the Lake District did I learn how you inadvertently trouble them by crossing their space. Autistic people are terrified of being cornered."

The architects worked shifts with the elderly and infirm at Tooting Bec hospital to come up with a detailed design that orientates the disoriented.

There are no stairs because Penoyre and Prasad nestled the two-storey nursing home into the slope of the South Downs, so both levels have immediate outside access. And there are no long corridors because they grouped 56 bedrooms in L-shaped blocks around gardens. These configurations break up into small corridors wide enough for two wheelchairs. Each ends with a view. All along the corridor the doors to individual bedrooms are set in bays and painted in calming blues and soft yellows, creating colourful little niches where anyone running out of puff can pull up for a rest.

"An infirm person may take ten minutes to cross a corridor in which trolleys and wheelchairs are moving, so we made these entrances wide enough to stop by for a chat, and set shelves in the bays so that the occupant of each bedroom can

put out their personal belongings if they wish," Greg Penoyre says. "This helps them with orientation."

So do the handgrip rails. Different finishes help the aged identify the route they are on through touch. Wood leads to the dining room, plastic to the lavatories, brass to bedrooms. At corners, the handgrip is made of metal to alert the unsteady traveller that a corner requires a change in direction. Even floors help the distinction between areas, with a wooden

floor in the dining room and carpet everywhere else but for the tiled bathrooms. Windows open out to the scented gardens and herb borders, through which a great circular loop route is marked for those who need to keep on the move.

"Obviously we can't make the building like a doughnut," Greg Penoyre says. "But we tried to keep routes going for the agitated, who are restless. If there is an omission, I think we should have had more covered outdoor space."

Inside, overhead light from clerestory windows diffuses the daylight and rooms are never over-lit. This sensitivity to detail proves that good architecture can certainly be beneficial in hospitals and nursing homes. Somehow these things often get forgotten when architects are subsumed by detail and the technicalities of hospital and nursing home design. And cost cutting.

The difference in patient charges isn't big enough to give the accountants the upper hand over architects here, either. Independent nursing homes cost about £132.50 a week, compared to £232.50 a week in a state nursing home and against £157 in independent-supported houses like the Newcastle conversions.

"What's so good about architects Prasad and Penoyre is that they are seeking to redress this imbalance," Professor Lawson says. They are not the only ones.

McDowell and Benedetti is a young practice which has just received planning permission from Lewisham council for a new 56-bed nursing home in Blackheath costing £1.75m. They were commissioned by the Merchant Taylors' Company to open in the millennium. A trustee of the Merchant Taylors', architect John Renton, who specialises in disability, advised them on mobility and accessibility.

After McDowell and Benedetti won the contract, the RSA Art for Architecture programme brought in artist Hannah Collins to work with the architects on the project at an early stage, so that her ideas could be deeply integrated into the design. She is working on engaging the sense through texture and feel, sight, sound and smell. Her work deals with memory and the associative qualities of memory and time. In another hospital project, Hannah Collins used found objects from the patients and made a display case of them to put back layers of meaning for people who have had things ripped away from them.

"It's not the glamorous side of architecture for the style magazine generation," Renato

lights are positioned so as not to shine in their eyes. The vibrant yellow glazed foyer has a lung-shaped canopy sheltering the entrance. There are shallow treads on steps for patients short of breath and on the rooftop there is an ozone sun deck with the chaise longue that Aalto designed.

Renato Benedetti says he felt sad when he first went to an old people's home. Then he was struck by the variety of people and their experiences, which rather surprised him. "Some keep wandering around, so our building must provide a never-ending route that is safe. Some are physically inactive but mentally alert, others not. There must be a wide spread of activity that relates different activities to their landscape."

So they broke down the institutional hierarchy to groups of sizes ("a more family scale"). They also minimised corridors by setting the front doors for these groups of six on to a communal area.

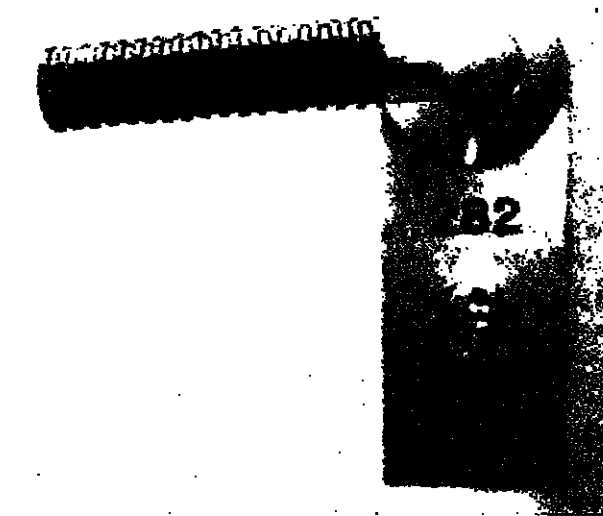
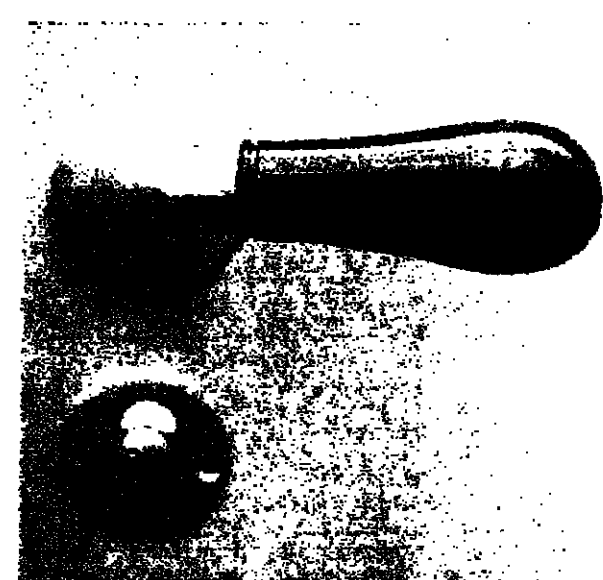
"I imagined my mother or father in an old age home and approached it differently," Renato Benedetti reveals.

What is touching about these two practices is their persistent quest to learn about the special needs of the elderly. No behavioural psychologist could have been more diligent than these architects. Recognition, orientation and navigation around the building have been worked out at different levels after consideration of the mental impairments of many residents. The DSS needs to take these findings seriously. But then, as Sunand Prasad observes, "Politicians don't engage with art and architecture. They just sprinkle it about like magic dust, superficially. Only Paul Boateng has taken our South Downs Health Trust building seriously. He wanted to understand it, rather than just grasp buzz words like 'new' and 'modern' and 'sustainable'."

'Stairlifts whizzing up and down Victorian stairs don't make a house wheelchair friendly'

Benedetti observes. "Younger architects should be interested in doing difficult and unglamorous work. We've all done fancy shops and apartments for the rich, and much ingenuity goes into them. Now we need to put that ingenuity into more difficult buildings."

There is no seminal work on old people's homes in Britain, but Jonathan McDowell is inspired by the Finnish architect Alvar Aalto's TB sanatorium at Paimio in Finland, "a very uplifting place, institutional but carefully directed". Designed in 1929 when Aalto was 33, it is still operative as a general hospital. Patients lying in bed get a good view of the beech forest, ceiling



Newhaven Downs House hospital by Penoyre & Prasad: main picture, the entrance hall; top and centre, colour and texture on door handles help residents find their way about. Above and below, left, independent homes for the elderly in Newcastle. Below, bottom, McDowell & Benedetti's model for Blackheath nursing home

Main picture Andrew Hassan

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Is this the future of dance?

Ballet not danced on pointe and directed like a play? Christopher Gable, director of the Northern Ballet Theatre, died last year but his radical vision lives on in the company's new production of *Carmen*. By John Percival

Exactly 50 years ago yesterday, a London audience accustomed to ballet as enchanted swans and sleeping beauties was startled out of its seats by the premiere of Roland Petit's ballet *Carmen*, starring the voluptuous Zizi Jeanmaire. But half a century later, Tchaikovsky and toe-shoes still dominate. And so it is that the Northern Ballet Theatre hopes to repeat the shock with another *Carmen* premiering in Leeds tonight.

The man who conceived it will not be there. Christopher Gable, the NBT's director for 10 years, died last October, but he had already set the new work on its way as the last of 10 big, bold productions with which he transformed the expectations of his dancers and their audiences. Gable, a former Royal Ballet star and later a straight actor, was as much interested in theatre as in ballet, and the best of his work always packed a strong punch. Everyone connected with the new *Carmen* says his spirit lives on in it.

It took Gable nearly four years after joining the NBT to get the company going as he wanted. The first of their big hits was a radical version of *Romeo and Juliet*, acclaimed both on tour and on television. With that, the pattern was set for a series of large-scale dramatic ballets (notably *A Christmas Carol*, *Dracula* and *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*) in which a familiar story was treated not only by the usual team of choreographer, musician and designer, but a director too, and the dancers were also encouraged to bring their own thoughts into the rehearsal studios. Gable insisted that this process was not just cosmetic; if a new dancer in the corps de ballet came up with an idea that was better than his own, "we'll embrace it instantly".

For *Carmen* he chose Didy Veldman as choreographer - best known here as a dancer and choreographer with the Rambert Dance Company. Born in Holland, she began dancing there with the Scapino Ballet, which was then building a new image with mainly modern works based on classical ballet technique. She began making her own ballets too, starting with a workshop piece which won a prize for young choreographers, and which the Scapino management liked enough to take into the repertoire. "I was encouraged after that to take every opportunity," she said.

Then came four years with the Geneva Ballet, dancing a repertoire by such noted choreographers as Jiri Kylian and Christopher Bruce. In Switzerland, she

also started her own group before joining Bruce's new-look Rambert Company. Gable saw her ballet *Kol Simcha*, and commissioned two pieces from her for the students of his Central Ballet School.

That led to discussions between the thoughtful, eager Gable, and Veldman, about choreography. Then suddenly a phone call: would she create *Carmen* for the NBT? He knew this was the ballet he wanted, but his thoughts, to her delight, were not far advanced, as he had found from previous collaborations that it was important to involve the choreographer from the beginning.

So they started working on the storyline, initially with the idea of following Mérimée's novel but, wanting to use Bizet's music, they found themselves drawn by that towards the plot of the opera. However, they wanted to find a modern situation because, Veldman says: "I don't see the need of making a ballet that looks like an opera of 100 years ago, and it's easier for the audience to relate to the story if it's set in their own time." Gable and Veldman wanted a location where it was hot, and where you could have a cigarette factory with police guarding it; the solution was South America, which Veldman knew well enough to have a feeling for.

One thing she insisted on was that the ballet would not be danced on pointe. Gable took some persuading over this but Veldman argued that she "wanted to talk about real people. Carmen is a woman in contact with the earth, and I wanted it more naturalistic". So the dancers will wear the ordinary footwear of today, or even be barefoot. And the designer Lex Botherston ended up buying most of the costumes in shops. "The dancers feel really comfortable in them; they are clothes you'd like to take home with you," says Veldman.

Her other design stipulation was to ask Botherston for as much space as possible. This is because "I'm trying to use movement to tell the story, not mime or acting. I'm trying to make everything physical". This is her first experience of making a story-ballet, and with a note of surprise in her voice, she says she found it "good, actually; I really enjoyed it".

Contrary to the usual ballet practice of working primarily with one "first cast" while the dancers who will alternate in the roles mark them from behind, Veldman has been working with three casts all together. She is convinced that "the more minds we have working and thinking, the more interesting it will be. Because it's storytelling, I can indicate what I want, let them try, then decide 'That's the clearest'. If I see



Didy Veldman rehearsing with the NBT: 'I'm trying to make everything physical'

Brian Slater

one couple do something interesting, we adopt that version".

The dancers, thanks to the way Gable developed them, "are imaginative, willing to improvise, and not afraid to give everything in rehearsal. In modern dance, we tend to concentrate on the movement in rehearsal, and say the expression will come once we get on stage".

Having expected to work on the choreography with Gable present and active like the director of a play, she found it daunting to arrive for rehearsals just after his death. She imagined the dancers might be thinking "Who is this woman?". But it helped that she had the co-operation of Patricia Doyle, an actress and director who had collaborated with Gable as drama co-

sultant and acting coach on his last three productions. The dancers already knew her, and Veldman found her theatrical background invaluable for "keeping me on the right track. She would tell me 'that works' or 'that doesn't'".

What Veldman also found was a company where everybody felt involved; where the technical staff sat in rehearsals and acted to meet every new need straight away; where the publicity people took a real interest; where she had a six-week rehearsal period from 12 to 6.30pm every day (something she had never experienced before) and weekly production meetings with everybody concerned.

The question now is whether NBT can find itself a new artistic director able to take

over where Gable left off. Gable's ballets did not always meet with critical approval - something he came to disregard, although he did change or withdraw works if he found they were not getting through to audiences. But he built a great spirit within the company and developed strong public support. Everyone knows that he had rare qualities, not easily replaced; and to complicate the issue, Scottish Ballet is simultaneously looking for a new director. Filling these gaps with the right people is going to be far from easy. Just as well for NBT that Gable's ghost is still so active among them.

Grand Theatre, Leeds box office: 0113 2226222. Further information on www.nbt.co.uk

Caged themes

THEATRE

THE RIB CAGE
ROYAL EXCHANGE STUDIO
MANCHESTER

THE ROYAL Exchange's new studio space is mainly committed to new writing with four premieres being presented by the Company in its first six months, and an evident policy of strong support in casting and technical resources.

Nicola Baldwin's *The Rib Cage* begins with a public theme. A Yorkshire town has just acquired a new retail centre - all shining glass and more themes than Western literature. Its developer is Don Rossington, traditional owner of a local fireworks factory, now busy re-inventing himself. More easily and urgently part of the zip-a-dee-doo-dah zeitgeist is Caria Potts, local ladette making it very good as a presenter intent on cutting a swathe of "scorched earth in local radioland". Close by, but an economy away, is the Turner family café, held together by Rosie, long abandoned by her husband and by her elder son, and now by her customers flocking to "retail heaven".

The public topic becomes entwined with personal and family drama with the return of the prodigal son Russell, gaunt and edgy in Chris Gascoyne's strong portrayal, redolent of squats and syringes and biliously eloquent about "the comatose seam of humanity" interred under the altars of goods and services. Somehow Caria unveils Russell into being the centrepiece of her seven-day "Wake Up North" festival at the Merridale: he will sleep through it all in a glass coffin; a sleeping prince, the king under the mountain, and eventual emblem of the town's rebirth.

To begin with, Nicola Baldwin seems bent on satire but she complicates the issue by making Caria's defence of modernity and rejection of the past very acute, and showing why she is personally so intent on the future. At first her collision - re-collision as we quickly realise - with Russell looks interestingly combustible, but as they collapse towards each other, the play falters accordingly, stumbling, eyes averted, towards a happy ending.

The Rib Cage is nearly as deliberately themed and imaged as the Merridale, and there are too many "significant" soliloquies. But the writing is very eloquent, and in less self-conscious passages, such as Rosie's account of her husband's leaving and the account of a Berlin traffic accident by the Revelation-crazed drunk Tolson (good Alan Williams), it has a very vivid edge.

JEFFREY WAINWRIGHT

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THE INDEPENDENT

THIS WAS THE WEEK THAT WAS

Today On this day in 1872 Eric Gill, carver, designer and, it turns out, incestuous was born. He survives in the typeface named after him and in the Prospero and Ariel carving which appears above the entrance to Broadcasting House (or, as John Birt doubtless refers to it, Prospectus and Aerial).

Tomorrow On this day in 1775 Beaumarchais' play *The Barber of Seville* opened in Paris, where critics snipped it to bits. (In the words of the old joke, it was the fault of the theatre: the seats faced the stage.) Two days later Beaumarchais knocked up a "Barber Mark II" version.

Wednesday Thomas Bowdler died in 1825; he had "bowdlerised" Shakespeare's plays by cutting out the naughty bits, the silly b****. In 1974 *The Guitarr Player* by Vermeer was stolen from Kenwood House, Hampstead.

Thursday Sir Christopher Wren died in 1733; a professor of astronomy, he diversified into architecture, while moonlighting as an MP.

Friday In 1979 an Old Bailey forgery trial was halted because the defendant was ill; artist Tom Keating later admitted that, yes, he did have a tendency to sign his paintings "Degas", "Goya" or "Rembrandt".

JONATHAN SALE

A manhunt for style

OPERA

PETER GRIMES
WELSH NATIONAL OPERA
CARDIFF NEW THEATRE

THE IDEA of getting Peter Stein to direct the Welsh National Opera's new *Peter Grimes* was in one sense obvious, in another sense inspired. A director who instinctively bases himself on close reading of the text (music and libretto), Stein is also an alert stylist, as his Pelléas here demonstrated. So Grimes, a veristic opera with an emblematic hero, should be right up his street. As yet the promise is only three-quarters fulfilled. The Cardiff production will delight lovers of stage naturalism and engage the brain cells of WNO's thinking patrons. It must certainly be among the most scenically beautiful ever seen on stage. Stefan Mayer achieves a translucency worthy of Corot in the harbour scene, and this quality is maintained, through various contrasts to the bitter end where dawn again breaks serenely on just another human tragedy.

Stein is in his element unravelling Britten's complicated dramaturgy, with its massive choral set pieces. The manhunt ensembles are simply overwhelming (with supremely committed choral singing), and the comings and goings in the Boar have an

almost unbearable intensity which reaches apotheosis when Grimes himself appears, a giant figure of doom against the storm-battered doorway. Where Stein is less at ease is in those tricky moments of individualisation: the personalities in the crowd - a notorious Grimes fault-line. These exchanges are riddled with problems of timing and style, accentuated perhaps by Stein's heroic rejection of stylisation. Britten and his librettist, Montagu Slater, were also, of course, thinking naturalistically at these moments. But the real trouble they cause is musical. Unless the singer dares "lose" contact with the conductor, there is an awkwardness; and if he or she does dare, ensemble can go to pot. Carlo Rizzi seems to me not yet to transmit the out-and-out confidence which could defeat this problem, though his conducting is alert and intelligent: evidence of a brilliant ear and sharp instincts in music far from his normal stamping ground. He finds many new

colourings. The "gutter" quartet is as beautiful as I've heard it, the Passacaglia superbly exact and intense, but at times he pushes a tempo against the singer's interests ("Murder most foul" is an example). With its big cast, this is strictly a one-man opera. John Daskal rises grandly to the challenge: a lumbering semi-articulate whose terrible sensibilities have to fight their way through a wall of social inadequacy. His storm duet with Balstrode (Donald Maxwell) is as gripping as the visionary moments are eloquent; only the madness eludes him, and the final ravings are disappointingly factual.

Janice Watson is a lovely Ellen: sweet-voiced, youngish and uncomplicated. Of the vignettes, Ann Howard's Auntie, Peter Brooker's Boles and Alan Ewing's Hobson rate special mention, though all are excellent. I wearied only of the silent Dr Crabbe (Paul Gyton), criss-crossing the stage like some senile, ghostly sentinel: Stein's sole stylisation, and a curiously unhelpful one.

STEPHEN WALSH

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NETWORK

A year ago Microsoft started charging for access to its Webzine. It didn't work. By Andrew Marshall

Return of the free lunch

Creating new media for the Internet is, for all concerned, a learning process and the latest to learn a (rather painful) lesson is Microsoft. *Slate*, the online magazine run by the US software behemoth, has decided to stop charging for access to its service after what it admits was a miscalculation.

A year ago, *Slate* started charging new subscribers just under \$20. In what was seen at the time as a watershed for the industry, there'd be no more free lunches. Now, lunch is free once again. "To be honest, we chickened out," said Michael Kinsley, *Slate's* editor. "Maybe in the future, when the Web's commonplace, people will happily pay for access to premium sites."

"We'll re-evaluate our decision about this on a regular basis," said Rogers Weed, *Slate's* publisher, shortly after the company announced it would start charging. But Mr Weed won't be re-evaluating very much: he has now moved on to another division of Microsoft.

Mr Kinsley wrote a humorous and self-deprecating explanation of the shift. "No, no, you see there's always been a mix of free and paid stuff," he explained. "We're just changing the mix... OK, OK, sure: We're backing down." "Don't you feel like jerks?" he asked himself. "Not really, OK, maybe a bit. But look: This is *terra incognita*."

The main reason for switching back was the surprisingly strong rise in advertising, said Scott Morroe, *Slate's* new publisher. "The advertising market on the Web has continued to expand at a remarkable pace," he told subscribers. But one reason it began charging for content was the growing competition for advertising. "Advertising alone is not going to do it for a good number of sites," Mr Weed said just a year ago.

The other reason is more compelling. "Paid subscriptions for content (other than snuff and investments) simply have not grown as expected," said Mr Kinsley. And so "the biggest problem with remaining paid was



Bill Gates wanted \$20 a reader; 'Slate' editor, Michael Kinsley (top right), was unable to deliver: 'We chickened out,' he said

that doing so would restrict our advertising potential."

Slate will continue to charge for its e-mail services - including the review of the morning papers, that lets everyone feel they've read the *New York Times*, even when they haven't. It will also charge for its archives and the weekly print edition, that's downloaded from the *Slate* site and has proved very popular. But everything else will be free once more.

Of course, there is a premium on just capturing an audience at the moment, with everybody seeking the maximum number of hits. But in the longer term, things may not be very different. "Web readers surf," wrote Mr Kinsley. "They go quickly from site to site. If they really like a particular site, they may visit it often, but they are unlikely to devote a continuous half-hour or

more to any one site the way you might read a traditional newspaper or magazine in one sitting. This appears to be in the nature of the Web, and not something that is likely to change." And as for advertisers, they "don't seem to place any special value on reaching paying subscribers. That was a bit surprising, since traditional magazine advertisers usually require paying subscribers."

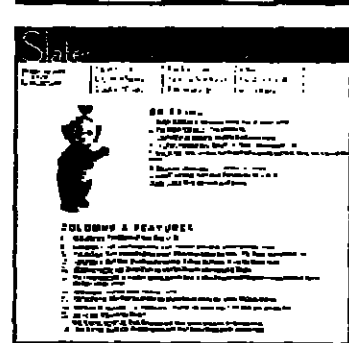
To some extent, Microsoft's retreat on *Slate* was just a marketing miscalculation. *Salon*, another website that competes on similar territory, never made that leap to charging for access. But it did create a special access area for "members only," with some extra features, and a range of merchandising. This seems to have been a better bet: keep the audience, but persuade a number of them that they are

getting something extra, rather than - as Microsoft did - make it look as if you are taking something away.

"Our feeling was that the Web was about building a sizeable audience and community, and then selling to that community," said *Salon* president, Michael O'Donnell. "It wasn't about paying for content - at least not our type of content. For the most part, we think the Web has provided mostly free content."

Microsoft has had frequent reverses in its strategy for interactive media, and still doesn't seem to have got it quite right. But the *Slate* story also shows the flaw in treating the Net as just an extension of the media.

There is some evidence that Mr Kinsley, who came from conventional print journalism to the shiny new website world, hasn't found it such an easy transition. Once editor of the *New Republic*, one of



A future that's Windows-free

BILL GATES recently went on record to state that Microsoft's new rival is not Netscape or the network computer, but Psion and Palm Pilot, both happily enlarging their customer bases without his beloved Windows. Apparently, Bill is also worried about Symbian, the mobile communication alliance between Psion, Nokia, Ericsson and Motorola, which has also taken an anti-Windows stand.

However, as I recently discovered, he has nothing to worry about. My new Nokia 6150 has no intention of speaking to the Psion, despite the fact that both manufacturers are the founders of Symbian. I expected that an inter-Symbian (read Nokia to Psion) link-up would be a simple procedure, achievable via a normal serial cable. Sadly, nothing is simple in the world of mobile alliances, and despite Symbian's anti-Gates campaign, Nokia is still sucking up to Microsoft. The evidence is all there in the fact that you can hook up to any Windows CE hand-held device in a fairly straightforward manner, but for Psion you have to spend a couple of hundred pounds on special kit.

So is it going to be yet another easy victory, with Microsoft winning the mobile operating system game to the detriment of consumer choice? Despite the bias that Nokia seems to be displaying towards CE, I think this time Bill will find it much harder going. The momentum behind the anti-Windows forces in the mobile communication market is growing, and Microsoft's recent announcement of a sudden love affair with BT smacks of desperation. BT, despite its gargantuan size, is only a tiny player in the mobile market, through a stake in Cellnet. Its endorsement is not as important as decisions that will be taken by the Orange and Vodafone networks. Those two are doing their own deals on operating systems, ignoring BT and Microsoft.

Microsoft has also been losing the battle over standards in Europe, as its proposal for a new generation of mobile protocol standards has been rejected by the European Union in favour of the next-generation GSM solution, developed by European manufacturers. This is good news for European mobile users. The patchy,



EVA PASCOE

Good news for European mobile users: Microsoft may yet be squeezed out of a monopoly position

incompatible mobile platforms in the US are a constant source of frustration for travellers used to GSM phones working in London as well as Rome or Warsaw.

As a heavy mobile user and frequent traveller to the Continent, I hope that the Europeans will stick to their guns. GSM is the only standard that specifies the complete network architecture, not just the radio access or air interface. Thanks to this transparency, today we have a multi-vendor, truly competitive market environment and seamless services to end users.

The announcement last week of the formation of an IP and Access Solutions unit by Nokia means that the Scandinavians are serious about competing with Microsoft, despite occasional pro-Microsoft biases in their products (see my own Nokia adventures with Psion). Between Martin Bangemann, the European Commissioner for Telecoms and IT, Bluetooth (an open specification for wireless communications), non-Windows devices like Palm Pilot or Psion and Nokia with Symbian, there are enough players to squeeze Microsoft out of a monopoly position.

Meanwhile, stick to using your laptop as a mobile connectivity device, use the Palm Pilot to check your hairstyle rather than picking up e-mail and hold out for a better, seamless, Windows-free mobile future.

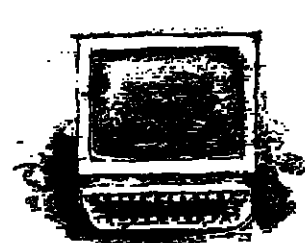
Send your views on mobile connectivity to eva@never.com

BYTES

ANDY OLDFIELD

INTEL PREVIEWED its Pentium III chip in San Jose, California, last week and confirmed this Friday as the official launch date for the new processor. Chips running at 450 and 500MHz will be immediately available in systems, and chips with speeds of up to 800MHz are due to be released by the end of the year. Compaq said its Pentium III systems would start at under \$2,000. Intel also announced price cuts of up to 25 per cent on its Celeron family of processors.

The Pentium III chip is designed to improve the way that audio and video streaming and 3D graphics are used over the Web. It should also improve voice recognition performance



and, in the words of the Intel CEO, Craig Barrett, "bring a brand-new user experience" to computing.

THE JUDGE hearing Sun Microsystems' claim against Microsoft over the terms of the latter's use of Java has clarified the preliminary injunction he is-

sued in November. Last week he said the injunction does not apply to Java technologies developed independently of Sun Microsystems. Sun sued Microsoft last year, arguing that introducing Windows-specific features to Java polluted the concept of the language and broke the terms of Microsoft's licence. Judge Ronald Whyte's preliminary injunction required Microsoft to alter its Java products, including Windows 98 and Internet Explorer, while the case continues.

The clarification has pleased Microsoft. "Sun is trying to prevent Microsoft from developing Java technologies, even without using Sun source code," Microsoft associate gen-

eral counsel Tom Burt said. "This is an option that is becoming more interesting in light of Sun's efforts to limit innovation and make Java a clearly proprietary technology."

SONY UNVEILED a new, 128-bit multimedia chip running at 250MHz with built-in hardware for decoding 3D graphics and digital video at a microprocessor conference in San Francisco last week. Although the company refused to make any comment on its intended application, most commentators think that the new chip will be used as the heart of the next generation Sony PlayStation. The current PlayStation uses a 32-bit processor running at 33MHz, which is the same specification it was launched with nearly four years ago.

THE ANTI-TRUST trial brought against Microsoft by the Department of Justice and a coalition of states continued last week with Microsoft vice-president Brad Chase agreeing that video evidence used the previous week had skipped over the processes needed for a computer user to download and install Netscape Navigator from the Web. The video had been intended to show that the Internet itself opened the browser market up to fair competition, but it contained errors and omissions that Chase acknowledged and apologised for. It is the third time in the case that video evidence from Microsoft has been successfully challenged in court.

APPLE COMPUTER has posted a new version of its Java virtual machine on its website (www.apple.com) for free download. Claiming 100 per cent compatibility with Sun standards, the Mac OS Runtime for Java 2.1 (MRJ) is five times faster than earlier versions. It has support for AppleScript as well as QuickTime for Java, which will be incorporated into new versions of QuickTime. MRJ 2.1 runs on PowerPCs with OS 7.5.1 or later.

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Michelangelo's damaged masterpiece can at last be viewed in its entirety. By Mark Vernon

The restoration game

Michelangelo's masterpiece the *Florentine Pietà* is unique. Unusually, he began the work without commission, making it a rare piece of self-expression, one of the first in the history of art. This colossal piece of carved marble, at 2.5 metres tall and weighing eight tons, was intended to crown the altar under which Michelangelo wanted to be buried. Then, a few years before his death, he took a hammer to the work to destroy it. A student rescued the piece, but left art historians with a mystery of composition, reconstruction and workmanship. Only today, with the assistance of state-of-the-art, so-called "deep computing", is the eminent Renaissance scholar Professor Jack Wasserman beginning to unravel its secrets. His work will enhance our understanding of the beliefs and genius of this great artist.

The *Florentine Pietà* is a group of four larger-than-life figures: the broken body of Christ from the cross is held up by Mary Magdalene aided by Nicodemus above her and the Virgin Mary to the right. Only the figures of Mary Magdalene and Christ are finished, although the left arm of Jesus has been broken and repaired and the left leg is missing. After Michelangelo's act of violence against it the otherwise undistinguished sculptor Tiberio Calcagni re-assembled it. This, as Wasserman explains, makes it a statue by two artists and even more difficult to interpret as a result.

Michelangelo's style has occupied the minds of art historians since the 16th century. The proportion and details of the *Florentine Pietà* are particularly curious, since some parts seem elongated while others are suspiciously small. More fundamentally, it has not been possible to view the statue as Michelangelo intended, with the base at eye level: since being rescued it sits on the floor in the Museum of the Opera del Duomo in Florence cathedral.

To tackle these issues, Wasserman originally engaged a photographer to conduct a complete study of the work, as well as an Italian research institute to carry out a scientific analysis. In 1997, his research brought him to IBM's Gabriel Taubin, head of the Visual Technologies Group at IBM Research, and a specialist in geometric computation. Shortly after, the IBM Foundation agreed to fund a project to generate an ultra-high-resolution virtual image of the work.

Not only was the task of artistic interest, but it presented great technological challenges. Digitising the *Florentine Pietà* for a near perfect replica required taking some 10,000 digital images. A camera originally designed for plastic surgeons to take three-dimensional photographs was modified for the project. It beams stripes of light on to the surface of the object and then takes 12 images simultaneously, six in colour to capture details of texture and shade, and six in black and white. A



The virtual image of Michelangelo's 'Florentine Pietà' has provided a rich area of research for the historian

grid of laser beams is also projected on to the statue to generate more spatial information. From the raw data, a computer algorithm then virtually reconstructs the piece.

Dr Fausto Bernardini, head of the IBM *Pietà* team, explains that advances in technology were required in several areas. The fundamental challenge was to manage a virtual study of an object of this size. After a test-run on a papier mâché mock-up of the statue in the Thomas J Watson Research Center in Yorktown Heights, New York, the IBM researchers went to Florence early last year, where they spent 12 days working in the small, unheated room in which the statue is housed. The end result is a virtual statue constructed of a mosaic of some 10 million triangles, with an additional 9 billion bytes of data refining the geometry and adding detailed colour and texture information.

"Handling this amount of information on a PC was the first advance," Dr Bernardini says. "It

would be straightforward on a super-computer, but fast-mesh computation at speed and with compression is a hard task."

The PC viewer first displays a simplified model of the full statue which can be viewed from any angle. Users can then zoom in on any part of the statue in detail down to a single millimetre. "Large portions of the statue are unfinished," says Pro-

fessor Wasserman. "You can see the sculptor's tool marks, which differ on different parts of the piece. The detail available makes a very rich area of research for the historian."

"The ability to view separately the limbs of each figure that Michelangelo removed would provide valuable insight into the question of how proportions of the figures would appear more realistic once the *Pietà* was mounted on an altar above the grave. Professor Wasserman also believes that from this angle the piece gives a naturalistic depiction of the Deposition of Christ rather than a symbolic one intended primarily to convey points of theology.

This suggestion supports an interpretation of the work as self-expressive of Michelangelo, revealing of the artist's piety and even psychological state at the end of his life.

Being able to handle large amounts of data in near real-time to draw out results immediately available to end-users has led to the coin-ing of the term "deep computing" by IBM. Dr Bernardini believes that their work will find application well beyond the art history arena. "The creation of 3-D content is expensive and requires experts. But these advances mean a 3-D camcorder might evolve that builds up an image automatically," he explains.

In 1553, Ascanio Condivi, author of *The Life of Michelangelo*, wrote of the *Florentine Pietà*: "Let it suffice: I tell you it is a rare thing, and one of the most laborious works that he has yet done." Little would he or Michelangelo have imagined that the masterpiece would be at the centre of advanced computer research, over 400 years later.

Users can zoom in on any part of the statue in detail down to a single millimetre

MY TECHNOLOGY

It saves time and lets me take the mickey

England rugby player Jeremy Guscott gets the message on his mobile phone

SMS, the Short Message Service, turns your mobile phone into a two-way pager to send and receive text messages. It is a bit like any gadget - you are not sure you are going to use it, but once you start, it can become an addiction. You can't stop sending text messages to your best mates.

Or, hopefully best mates. It's a bit worrying because it is easy to send a message to the wrong person. I guess this is because I have my numbers programmed in and can press the wrong button by accident.

messages. It's like e-mail - if their phone is off, it can be received when the phone is turned back on.

Any new gadget that saves you time on the phone. I think it's a good idea, like programming your friend's numbers, or different ringing tones for business or friends. Cellnet are the team's sponsors, so we get mobile phone courses two or three times a year, what is coming up, or what is easier. Other ideas that have been shown are the Genie Football Radio, which sends new stories on



Sometimes I send a message and talking to my friends later on, I say - "did you get that?" - and they say "no". It's a bit of a worry. But most of my mates' numbers are programmed into my phone, so the likelihood is it will go to another friend.

I have a laugh with the SMS service. Other players use it and it starts off a little chain reaction - you send one message to one player, and before you know it, it has backfired and you are all having a go at each other! But I wouldn't go too far. Anyway, my friends are pretty streetwise. If they were out on a date, I am sure they'd turn the phone off.

The messages could be anything from taking the mickey out of one of the guy's performances in the game (no, I can't give an example), something that has happened in the game, or was written about in a newspaper. With some guys who always have their phones off, or are in a bad area, I just send

your team, or traffic reports. Mobile phones have services as innovative as BT these days.

At the moment I am training with England and I am fairly busy, but I very rarely get called out of the blue. I am not a slave to my mobile phone (the only thing I am a slave to is the remote control - you go to any home and the wife won't be able to tell you where the remote control is, but the man will). I use the mobile quite a lot, but it's generally when I am travelling. The beauty about the phone is if you don't want to talk, you turn it off and you have an answering machine.

The actual mechanics of the SMS service aren't difficult; you press a couple of buttons, get into the service, type out the message on the alphabet buttons on the phone and then press send. It's cheaper than using the mobile. After all, it's really short messages, I am not sending through an essay.

INTERVIEW BY JENNIFER RODGER

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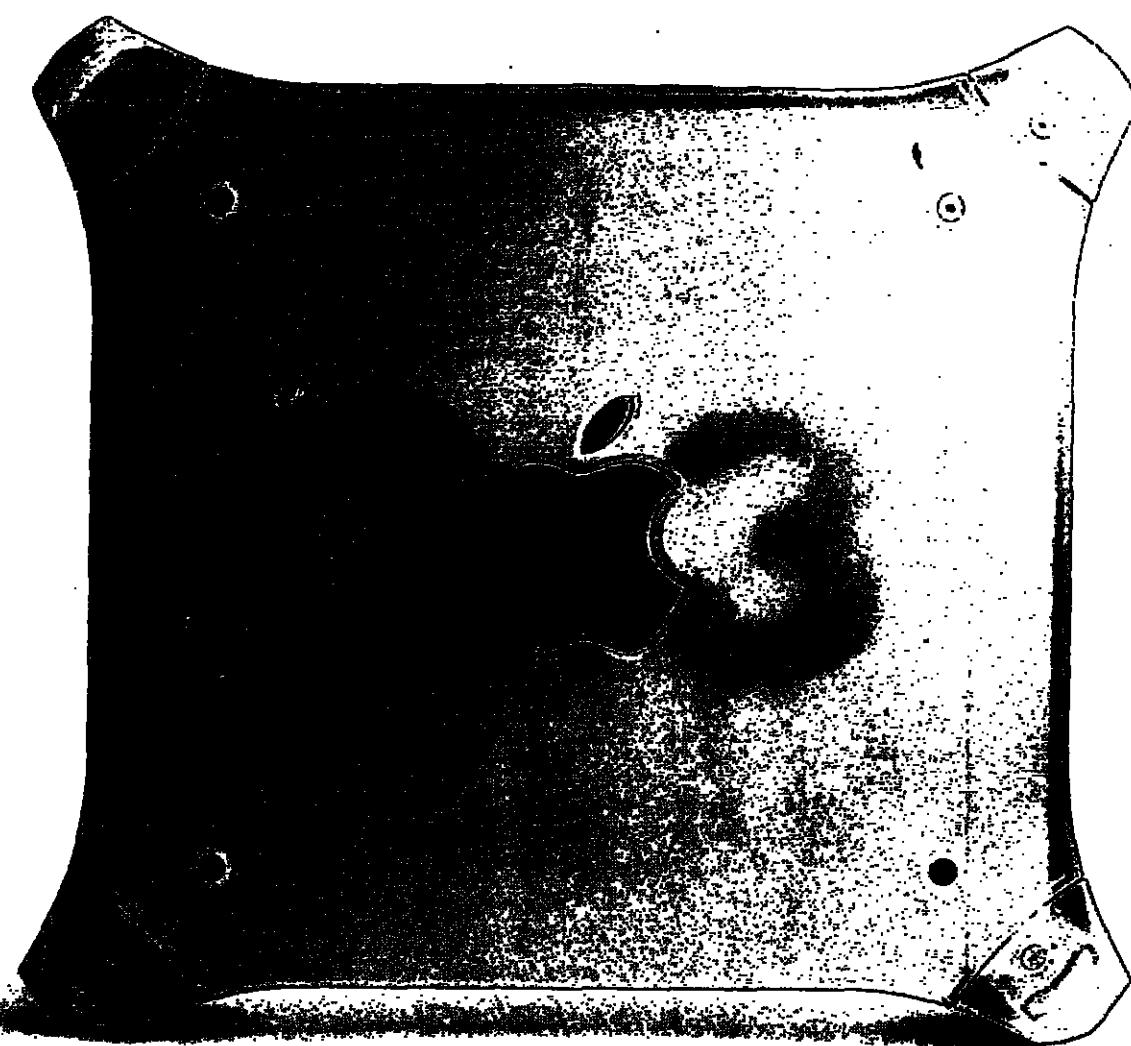
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NEW FILMS

AFFLICTION (15)

Director: Paul Schrader
Starring: Nick Nolte, James Coburn, Sissy Spacek, Willem Dafoe
See *The Independent Recommends*, right.
West End: ABC Shaftesbury Avenue, Chelsea Cinema, Renoir

HOLY MAN (PG)

Director: Stephen Herek
Starring: Eddie Murphy, Jeff Goldblum
Redemption time! Jeff Goldblum plays Ricky, a scoundrel executive on a home-shopping channel. Eddie Murphy is G, a spiritual wanderer with open-toed sandals and an idiot-savant stimp. G and Ricky hook up. Fearful for his job, Ricky uses G as a footman on the shopping show and sales go through the roof. G, in turn, teaches Ricky a few soulful lessons; you know, about life and stuff. *Holy Man* is a film of bits and pieces. Parts of it (the satirical swipes at trash TV, for instance) are very funny, while Murphy and the wired, neurotic Goldblum in particular, both do well in fleshing out what are essentially one-dimensional, archetypal roles. The trouble is, the film never quite hangs together. It skips around trying to find the right tone; starts out as an attack on media-land, then pulls its punches. It runs worryingly out of steam. West End: Odeon Marble Arch, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

THIS YEAR'S LOVE (18)

Director: David Kane
Starring: Douglas Henshall, Kathy Burke, Jennifer Ehle, Ian Hart, Emily Wolf, Catherine McCormack
A cast of Britain's finest (Kathy Burke, Ian Hart, Douglas Henshall et al) weave to and fro through David Kane's Camden-set essay on urban romance. The plot is airy and simple: six disparate middle-aged types criss-cross each other over a period of three years; their bungled bed-hopping and snatched moments of human contact scored to a voguish pop soundtrack (Garbage, Morcheeba, Mercury Rev). Hart excels as a nerdy outcast, Burke as a nurturing, rough-diamond pub singer. All are well-served by Kane's generally witty and well-observed screenplay. It's just that *This Year's Love* doesn't quite know when to quit, cranking what might have been a sublime one-hour teleplay into double its natural length. Still, that's modern romance for you. You can't fit it into tidy little boxes. West End: Barbican Screen, Clapham Picture House, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea. And local cinemas

Xan Brooks

GENERAL RELEASE

ANTZ (PG)

This computer-animated trifle is surely the most unlikely Woody Allen movie we will ever see. The nerd icon allegedly re-wrote the bulk of his dialogue to provide the voice of worker-ant Z who breaks out from his totalitarian rut when he falls in with Princess Bala (Sharon Stone). West End: Virgin Trocadero, Repertory: Prince Charles. And local cinemas

A BUG'S LIFE (U)

See *The Independent Recommends*, above.
West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Clapham Picture House, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Leicester Square, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea. And local cinemas

BULWORTH (18)

Warren Beatty's new satire is a blast: crude and condescending on occasion, yet genuinely audacious and committed, too. West End: Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Ritzy Cinema, Virgin Haymarket, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

DON'T GO BREAKING MY HEART (PG)

So how bad is *Don't Go Breaking My Heart*? Well, first off, it wastes the skills of ER's Anthony Edwards as a Yankee sports therapist in Blighty. Secondly, it overplays the charms of Jenny Seagrove as the widowed mum he gets together with. This arithmetic weepie wheezes on towards a finale so predictable that you'd have to be dead not to see it coming. West End: Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

ELIZABETH (15)

Shekhar Kapur's film is the story of a female figurehead struggling to gain purchase in a male world. But Kapur largely neglects the opportunities for fun in a story of independence triumphing over cruelty. West End: ABC Pantons Street, Odeon Mezzanine, Odeon Swiss Cottage. And local cinemas

ENEMY OF THE STATE (15)

Will Smith's fall-guy DA teams up with Gene Hackman's pensioned-off Pentagon warhorse, probes a political cover-up and gets embroiled in all manner of Big Brother-type trouble. West End: Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Virgin Trocadero. And local cinemas

HIDEOUS KINKY (15)

Through the teasing backdrop of 1970s Morocco treads Kate Winslet's hippie single-mum, her two daughters (Bella Riza, Carrie Mullin) unwillingly in tow. West End: Clapham Picture House, Curzon Soho, Curzon Minima, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Renoir, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road. Repertory: Watermans Arts Centre. And local cinemas

HILARY AND JACKIE (15)

Full-throttle playing from Rachel Griffiths and Emily Watson sustains Anand Tucker's biopic of the Du Pré sisters. West End: Curzon Soho. Repertory: Watermans Arts Centre. And local cinemas

HOW STELLA GOT HER GROOVE BACK (15)

Essentially this is *Shirley Valentine* with an Afro-American spin, but Angela Bassett works hard to make an impression among the tourist-brochure visuals. With Whoopi Goldberg. West End: Ritzy Cinema, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

I THINK I DO (15)

An excuse for reunions, for an ensemble cast, for the tensions of etiquette against emotion. Writer-director Brian Sloan ticks all the right boxes during this spy baby-boomer outing and yet it's too hyperactive and ingratiating for its own good. West End: ABC Shaftesbury Avenue, Virgin Fulham Road

JACK FROST (PG)

Out-of-season Yuletide tale. Michael Keaton plays a self-obsessed blues-man who dies and gets reincarnated as a snowman. The *Pull Mori's* Mark Addy co-stars as his best mate. They meet, they pass, and formula fun is had by all. West End: UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL (LA VITA È BELLA) (PG)

See *The Independent Recommends*, above. West End: Barbican Screen, Curzon Mayfair, Odeon Kensington, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on the Hill, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea. And local cinemas

LITTLE VOICE (15)

Holed up in her bedroom, timid North Country sparrow LV (Jane Horrocks) perfects strident impersonations of Shirley Bassey and Judy Garland. Bracing black comedy, Horrocks' vocal pyrotechnics, plus a marvellously weighted turn from Michael Caine push *Little Voice* through to the final curtain. West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road. And local cinemas

LIVING OUT LOUD (15)

Living Out Loud spins a sweet saga of female liberation, bolstered by a terrific performance from Holly Hunter as the lonesome divorcee drifting into an is-it-or-isn't-it friendship with Danny DeVito's bereaved lift operator. West End: Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

MADLINE (U)

All aboard for storybook 1950s Paris. That gingerbread house on the corner is the boarding house attended by nine-year-old Madeline (Hatty Jones). That hatchet-faced woman out front is the strict instructor (Frances McDormand). That car going by is a Citroën. You get the picture. This overclogged rendering of Ludwig Bemmelman's kids' stories looks a shade one-dimensional; all artistry and no art. West End: Clapham Picture House, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

THE MASK OF ZORRO (PG)

This gaudy swashbuckler gallops full-speed through 19th-century California in the company of Antonio Banderas's authentically Hispanic do-gooder. West End: Odeon Mezzanine, Virgin Fulham Road, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

MY GIANT (PG)

Billy Crystal plods his way through Michael "Heathers" Lehmann's Lilliputian comedy about a disreputable Hollywood agent who gets a few life lessons when he runs into a saintly giant (George Murenan) in Romania. Expect size jokes in the middle and glib morals at the end. Local: Harrow Warner Village

THE OPPOSITE OF SEX (18)

See *The Independent Recommends*, above.
West End: UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

THE PARENT TRAP (PG)

The Parent Trap catches Disney cannibalising its own back catalogue; re-heating its 1961 heart-warmer into a spy caper. Starring Dennis Quaid and Natasha Richardson. Local cinemas

PECKER (18)

Trash auteur John Waters swerves into sunnier streets with Pecker, his fluffily satirical take on an amateur Baltimore photographer adopted as a fly-on-the-wall artist by the New York elite. West End: Metro

PI (15)

What sustains this film is the pure ingenuity of its central conceit, its ongoing "mathematics is the language of nature" mantra and louché too-cool-for-school demeanour. It all adds up. West End: ABC Pantons Street, Clapham Picture House

SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE (15)

See *The Independent Recommends*, above.
West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Clapham Picture House, Empire Leicester Square, Notting Hill Coronet, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on the Hill, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero. Repertory: Phoenix Cinema. And local cinemas

YOUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS (18)

Another troubling X-ray of American mores from In the Company of Men director Neil LaBute. Your Friends and Neighbors widens its focus a little, yet in all other respects this looks like a carbon copy of LaBute's debut. There are the same stage-bound confines, the same structured misanthropy, the same dense weave of dialogue. Two features in and LaBute has chewed this bone to bits already. West End: Curzon Soho, Gate Notting Hill, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Screen on Baker Street, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Haymarket. And local cinemas

THE INDEPENDENT RECOMMENDS

THE FIVE BEST FILMS

Affliction (15)

Paul Schrader's magnificent bleak study in fatherhood and fatalism stars Nick Nolte as a man struggling to escape the influence of his violent dad (James Coburn).

Life is Beautiful (La Vita è Bella) (PG)

Roberto Benigni directs and stars in this tragicomic fable about an Italian Jew who tries to shield his boy from the horrors of a Nazi concentration camp by pretending that the brutal regime is an elaborate game.

Shakespeare in Love (15)

This enjoyable romp suggests how romance fired Shakespeare with the creative inspiration for *Romeo and Juliet*. Joseph Fiennes and Gwyneth Paltrow head a multi-star cast.

A Bug's Life (U)

Less sophisticated and more child-friendly than *Antz*, this animated feature (right) spins another enjoyable yarn about an ant colony and its battle to survive. Kevin Spacey provides the voice of the chief grasshopper.

The Opposite of Sex (18)

Christina Ricci plays 16-year-old bitch-on-wheels Dedee, who causes all kinds of havoc when she moves in with her half-brother (Martin Donovan).

THE FIVE BEST PLAYS

Oklahoma! (Lyceum Theatre, London)

Widely regarded as the best ever, Trevor Nunn's glorious production of the Rogers and Hammerstein classic fully deserves its West End transfer. To 26 Jun

Copenhagen (Duchess Theatre, London)

Michael Frayn's profound and haunting meditation on science, morality and the mysteries of human motivation (right). To 7 Aug

Toast (Royal Court at the Ambassador's)

So you thought that the comic fascination of a mass-production bakery in 1970s Hull was somewhat limited? Richard Bean's delightfully funny play proves you wrong. To 6 Mar

The Winter's Tale (RSC, Stratford)

An amazing rich and complex performance from Antony Sher in Gregory Doran's Romanov-style production. In rep to 4 Mar

The Tempest (West Yorkshire Playhouse, Leeds)

Jan McKellen gives a low-key performance as a Prospero who presides over an island grimly reimagined as a correctional facility. To 27 Feb

THE FIVE BEST SHOWS

Monet in the 20th Century (Royal Academy)

He lived until 1926. The gardens and lily ponds at Giverny dissolve into elemental visions: fiery lights, haze, liquid reflections, voids and depths. The strange last works of Impressionism (above). To 18 Apr

Portraits by Ingres (National Gallery)

Some of the most intense portraiture ever. Women: exquisite mixtures of flesh and fabric, dreams of sex and money. To 25 Apr

Andreas Gursky (Serpentine Gallery)

Photographs 1944-88. Huge, wide-vision, high-contrast, micro-detailed, digitally manipulated images of our everyday world. To 7 Mar

Oppé Watercolour Collection (Whitworth Gallery, Manchester)

Classic and still fresh 18th- and 19th-century British watercolours, including Alcock's Caverns, John Sell Cotman, Constable, and Francis Towne. To 5 Apr

Disasters of War (Volperhampton Art Gallery)

"I saw this" - three ages of European war through the etchings of Jacques Callot, Goya and Otto Dix. Visions from the blackest of times. To 20 Mar

ANTHONY QUINN

PAUL TAYLOR

TOM LUBBOCK

CINEMA

WEST END

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MONDAY RADIO

RADIO 1
(97.8-98.8MHz FM)
6.30 Scott Mills. 9.00 Simon Mayo.
12.00 Jo Whalley. 2.00 Mark Radcliffe. 4.00 Chris Moyles. 5.45 Newsbeat. 6.00 Dave Pearce. 8.00 Lamacq Live. 12.00 The Breakfast. 2.00 Emma B. 4.00 - 6.30 Clive Warren.

RADIO 2
(88-90.2MHz FM)
6.00 Sarah Kennedy. 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan. 8.30 Ken Bruce. 12.00 John Inverdale. 2.00 Ed Stewart. 5.05 Johnnie Walker. 7.00 Humphrey Lyttelton. 8.00 Big Band Special. 8.30 Jock Macleod. 1.30 Mark Lamarr. Shake, Rattle and Roll. 10.30 Richard Ainsworth. 12.00 Katrina Leskanich. 3.00 - 4.00 Alex Lester.

RADIO 3
(90.2-92.4MHz FM)
6.00 On Air. 9.00 Mornington. 10.30 Artist of the Week. 11.00 Sound Stories. 12.00 Composer of the Week: Aaron Copland. 1.00 The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert: Live from the Wigmore Hall, London. Stephanie Hughes introduces the eighth of 12 recitals by leading pianists. Boris Berezovsky (piano), Chopin: Ballade No 3 in A flat, Op 47. Liszt: After Aubert: Tarentelle de bravura. Rachmaninov: Moments musicaux, Op 16 (excerpts). Ravel: La valse. 2.00 The BBC Orchestras. 4.00 Opera in Action. 4.45 Music Machine. 5.00 In Tune. 7.30 Performance on 3. The first concert in a special week-long series from Glasgow which focuses on the influence of non-western sounds on the European and American classical tradition. Many of this century's composers, from Ravel to Boulez, have been fascinated by the sound of distant cultures - music in which the exotic East meets West. BBC Scottish SO/En Shao. Revue: Les Sensu. Tan Dun: Orchestral Theatre No 1. Takemitsu: The Dorian Horizon. Bartok: Suite 'The Miraculous Mandarin'. 8.40 Postscript. Alain de Botton looks to some of the great thinkers of the past in the hope of finding philosophical cures for some everyday

PICK OF THE DAY
CONVINCED that Russia will define the new century as much as it has done the last, the writer Philip Marsden decided to head for its "fraying southern border" in search of forgotten radicals. In the steppe, he met The Spirit Wrestlers (8.45am R4FM) - a sect which survived Tsarist and Communist persecution with austere principles intact. In "Doctors of Philosophy", this

week's Postscript (8.40pm R3), the novelist Alain de Botton (right) will be "consulting" the great thinkers about everyday problems. He starts with Epicurus, on the subject of cash-flow crises. The Late Book - If It Moves... Kill 'Em (12.30am R4) cuts a useful swathe through David Weddle's biography of the filmmaker Sam Peckinpah. DOMINIC CAVENDISH



meets celebrities who live for football. Kevin Kennedy, who plays Curly Watts in 'Coronation Street', talks about his passion for Manchester City. 8.00 John Inverdale's Football Forum. John Inverdale and a panel tackle questions from an audience at the Valley, home of Charlton Athletic. Guests include veteran Charlton forward Mark Bright, Wimbledon striker Robbie Earle, and Brentford owner and manager Ron Noades. 10.00 Late Night Live. Nick Robinson sets tomorrow's agenda today, including at 10.30 a full round-up of the day's sport, and at 11.00 a late news briefing. 1.00 Up All Night. 5.00 - 6.00 Morning Reports.

CLASSIC FM
(100.0-101.9MHz FM)
6.00 Nick Bailey. 8.00 Henry Kelly. 12.00 Requests. 2.00 Concerto. 3.00 Jamie Cricht. 2.00 Newsnight. 7.00 Classics. 9.00 Evening Concert: Tchaikovsky: 1812 Overture. Montreal SO/Charles Dutoit. Scarlatti: Salve Regina. June Anderson (soprano). Cecilia Bartoli (mezzo). Montreal Sinfonietta/Charles Dutoit. Haydn: Symphony No 86 in D. Montreal Sinfonietta/Charles Dutoit. Beethoven: Piano Concerto No 5 in E flat (Emperor). Wilhelm Kempff (piano). Montreal SO/Sel Ozawa. 11.00 Alan Parry. 2.00 Concerto. 3.00 - 6.00 Mark Griffiths.

VERGIN RADIO
(125.1-126.0kHz MW 105.8MHz FM)
6.30 Chris Evans. 9.30 Russ Williams. 1.00 Nick Abbot. 4.00 Harriet Scott. 6.45 London Calling with Harriet Scott/AM Peter and Geoff. 7.30 Pete and Geoff. 10.00 Mark Forrest. 1.00 James Merritt. 4.30 - 6.30 Richard Allen.

WORLD SERVICE RADIO
(198kHz LW)
1.00 The World Today. 1.30 West-ward. 1.45 Radio News. 2.00 The World Today. 2.30 World News Roundup. 3.00 World Business Report. 3.45 Insight. 4.00 - 7.00 The World Today (4.00-7.00).

TALK RADIO
6.00 Big Boys Breakfast with David Banks & Nick Ferrari. 9.00 Scott Chisholm. 1.00 Anna Reburn. 4.00 Peter Doolley. 5.00 SportZone. 6.00 James Whale. 1.00 Ian Collins.

ills. 1: From foreign holidays to expensive meals, we live in an age that equates money with happiness. So what has Epicurus to say to those with a cash-flow problem? See Pick of the Day. 9.00 Joao Rodrigues Esteves. The Choir of Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford, director Stephen Darlington, perform music by Portuguese composer Esteves, including the monumental 'Mass for Eight Voices'. Esteves was for a long time lost in the shadows of the history of Portuguese music, yet his legacy includes around a hundred religious works now in the archives of the Ajuda Palace and of Lisbon Cathedral, where he was mestre de capela during the first half of the 18th century. His music displays the contrasting influences of the High Renaissance polyphony exemplified by Palestrina, and the more energetic antiphonal writing of the Gabriellis. (R) 10.00 Voices. Ian Burnside presents the first of two programmes featuring baritone Simon Keenlyside with Malcolm Martineau (piano), recorded last month at London's Wigmore Hall. Schumann: Ballade des Harpners; Wer nie sein Brot mit Tränen ass; Wer sich der Einsamkeit ergibt (Lieder und Gesänge aus Wilhelm Meister, Op 98a); 12 Gedichte, Op 35. 10.45 Minding It. Leo Feigin talks to Mark Russell and Robert Sandell about his passion for new music. 11.30 Jazz Notes. 12.00 Composer of the Week: Antonin Dvorak. (R) 1.00 - 6.00 Through the Night.

RADIO 4
(92.4-94.9MHz FM)
6.00 Today. 9.00 NEWS: Start the Week. 9.45 The Spirit Wrestlers. See Pick of the Day. 10.00 NEWS: Woman's Hour. 11.00 NEWS: Tuning into Children. 11.30 King of Bath. 12.00 NEWS: You and Yours. 1.00 The World at One. 1.30 Counterpoint. 2.00 NEWS: The Archers. 2.15 Afternoon Play: Hush. 3.00 NEWS: Money Box Live: 0870 010 0444. 3.30 A View with a Room. (R) 3.45 This Scattered Isle. (R) 4.00 NEWS: The Food Programme. 4.30 Turning World. 5.00 PM. 6.00 Six O'Clock News. 6.30 Just a Minute. 7.00 NEWS: The Archers. 7.25 Front Row. Mark Lawson with the arts programme. 7.45 The Cry of the Bittern. An environmental drama by Tim Jackson. 8.00 NEWS: Silent Sentence. The first in a three-part series investigating effects of crime on the perpetrator's family. 'Husbands and Wives'. What happens to a marriage when one member goes into prison? Do you stay and endure isolation and stigmatisation or leave and start your life again? Presented by Peter White. 8.30 Analysis. 9.00 NEWS: Nature. Dr Gillian Rice investigates how strong a drug caffeine is. 9.30 Start the Week. Jeremy Paxman and his guests set the cultural agenda for the week.

RADIO 4 LW
(198kHz LW)
9.45 - 10.00 Daily Service. 12.00 - 12.04 News: Shipping Forecast. 5.54 - 5.57 Shipping Forecast. 11.30 - 12.00 Today in Parliament.

RADIO 5 LIVE
(693.909kHz MW)
6.00 Breakfast. 9.00 Nick Campbell. 12.00 The Midday News. 1.00 Ruscoe and Co. 4.00 Drive. 7.00 News Extra. 7.30 Dream Teams. Jim White

INDEPENDENT PURSUITS

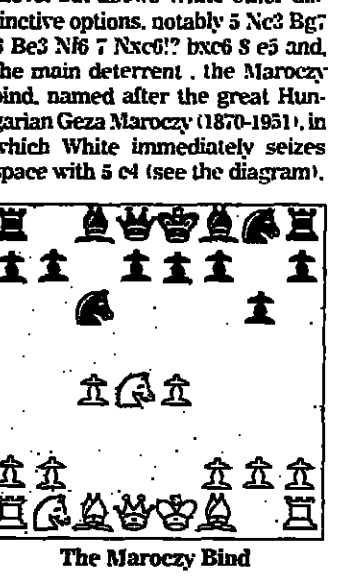
CHESSE

JON SPEELMAN

IT'S GENERALLY believed that chess is a draw - that is, neither side can force victory from the initial position - but nevertheless that the first move is an "advantage". This advantage manifests itself in the perceived need for Black, against treacherous White opening play, to make some concession to get a reasonable game. This can be a slightly compromised pawn structure, (unusually) a pawn sacrifice, or very often in modern play a space disadvantage, as in one of the main lines against the subject of today's review, The Sicilian Accelerated Dragon, by the grandmaster Peter Heine Nielsen and Carsten Hansen (BT Batsford, £17.99).

This line, which is generally regarded as extremely difficult for Black, was rescued from obscurity by the great Danish player Bent Larsen who showed that Black can fight against White's space advantage by playing on the black square complex which 5 c4 has somewhat weakened.

The Accelerated Dragon differs from the normal Dragon variations - 1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 exd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 g6 - in that Black delays moving his d pawn, playing instead 1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 d4 exd4 4 Nxd4 Nc6. This has the advantage that the d pawn may jump to d5 in a single move, but allows White other distinctive options, notably 5 Nc3 Bg7 6 Be3 Nf6 7 Nxc6? bxc6 8 e5 and, the main deterrent, the Maroczy bind, named after the great Hungarian Geza Maroczy (1870-1951), in which White immediately seizes space with 5 c4 (see the diagram).



White: Annakov
Black: Peter Heine Nielsen
Buenos Aires 1992
Sicilian Accelerated Dragon
(from diagram) 21 Bg1 Bxd5
5...Bg7 22 exd5 Bf6
6 Be3 Nf6 23 Bxf7 exf6
7 Nc3 0-0 24 Qd4 Qx7
8 Be2 d6 25 Bf5 Qx5
9 0-0 Bd7 26 Qx5 fxe5
10 B?!! Qb6! 27 Bf5 Rxb5
11 Na4 Qx5 28 Rb1 f5
12 Nc3 Nxd4 29 exd5 gxd5
13 Bxd4 Rf6 30 Be6 Rxb2
14 Qd7 Be6 31 Rxd2 Kg7
15 b2 h5 32 g3 Kf6
16 b4 Qxb4 33 Kg2 Rg8
17 Rb1 Qa5 34 f4 h5
18 Rxb5 Qd8 35 Rb1 h4
19 Nd5 Nd7 37 Bb5? h3+
20 Be3 Nc5 38 Kf2? Rb5 0-1

BRIDGE

ALAN HIRON

BRIDGE PLAYERS are usually very reticent about their disasters at the table, usually ascribing the blame to partner or, if heavily pressed, finally admitting to a "wrong view". Not so with my Danish colleague Ib Lundby, who went so far as to publish this deal in a recent IBFA Bulletin.

West opened One Spade, North doubled and, after a pass by East, Ib had a difficult bid.

Perhaps One and a half no-trumps would have been about right but, following the archaic rules of this game, he chose One no-trump and was pleased to be given another chance when North raised to Two. He went on to game and West led the queen of spades against Three no-trumps.

East unblocked with his king and, when this was allowed to win, continued spades. Declarer won the third round of the suit and started on the diamonds, studying the discards closely. East parted with a low club and West first the eight of hearts, then a low spade, and finally the king of hearts.

This was easy, thought Ib. It was quite clear to him, at any rate, that

West had started with 4 ♠ A K 8 9 4 ♠ x. So he played off the ace of clubs and followed with another club from dummy. When the queen did not appear from East, he went up with his king, exuding quiet confidence. To his horror, West discarded the seven of hearts!

Of course, when you think about it, West's choice of discards could not possibly cost, but would it have occurred to you at the table?

SATELLITE AND CABLE

SKY PREMIER
6.00 Mrs Winterbourne (1996) (88613).
8.00 Picture Perfect (1999) (70532). 8.30 The Wedding (1997) (80125). 11.30 We the Jury (1998) (78833). 1.30 Mrs Winterbourne (1996) (80125). 3.30 Barry Norman's Film Night (1997). 4.00 Picture Perfect (1999) (70532). 5.30 The Wedding (1997) (80125). 7.30 The Barry Norman Interview (1997). See Pick of the Day. 8.00 In Love and War (1999) (87930). See Pick of the Day. 10.00 The Saint (1997) (82718). 12.00 Flaming with Disaster (1999) (855323). 1.35 Desperate Trail (1994) (826472). 3.30-6.00 Soapdish (1991) (709692).

SKY MOVIE MAX
7.30 Movie Magic (542006). 8.45 Action Heroes (545784). 9.00 And Baby Makes Sex (1979) (28342). 11.00 Theodora Rex (1999) (855323). 1.35 Desperate Trail (1994) (826472). 3.30-6.00 Soapdish (1991) (709692).

SKY CINEMA
4.00 The Woman in Green (1945) (400476). 6.30 Hollywood Hall of Fame (305455). 6.00 Call Northside 777 (1948) (172445). 8.00 A Place in the Sun (1961) (172350). 10.00 No Way to Treat a Lady (1961) (874303). 11.50 Three Hours to Kill (1964) (295257). 1.35 Hula-bop over George and Bonnie Pictures (1978) (864695). 2.50 The Directors (1987/87). 3.50 King Kong (1953) (292725). 5.30 Close.

FILEMAFUR
6.00 Bob le Flambeur (1955) (9871280). 7.40 The Old Flameur Hall of Fame (1983/83). 8.00 Chirnaloid Kid (1985) (192087). 10.00 Gambler (1995) (868220). 11.40 Music of Chance (1989) (830781). 1.35 The Killer (1989) (164578). 3.30 - 6.00 1994 (1994) (8294554).

DISCOVERY CHANNEL
4.00 Fishing Adventures (3259193). 4.30 Walker's World (225377). 5.00 Wheel Nuts (430555). 5.30 Treasure Hunters (304829). 6.00 Animal Doctor (1963/42). 6.30 Leopard: Prince of Predators (1995/00). 7.20 The Elegant Solution (1995/00). 8.00 Nick's Quest (430735). 8.30 The Supernatural (4217342). 9.00 Natural Disasters (3333484). 9.30 Natural

PICK OF THE DAY
SPITTING IMAGE always used to portray Sir Richard Attenborough as a lively unable to prevent himself bursting into tears at the very mention of his dear friends in the acting profession. That stereotype obscures his talents as a campaigner, as an actor (he was genuinely scary in both Ten Tillington Place and Brighton Rock), and as a director (Gandhi and Cry Freedom). The Barry Norman Interview with Richard Attenborough (7.30pm)

Disasters (5167731). 10.00 The Andes (1997/98). 11.00 Light Flight to Jordan (1943/53). 12.00 The Andes (1994/94). 1.00 Treasure Hunters (208192). 1.30 Wheel Nuts (355743). 2.00 Close.

SKY ONE
7.00 Court Duckies (34445). 7.30 The Chris Evans Breakfast Show (7778). 8.30 Hollywood Squares (4342). 9.00 Sally Jessy Raphael (40667). 10.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show (43464). 11.00 Gullity (59700). 12.00 Jenny Jones (55377). 1.00 Meet about You (33718). 1.30 Jeopardy (59733). 2.00 Sally Jessy Raphael (20754). 3.00 Jenny Jones (804695). 4.00 Gullity (76342). 5.00 Star Trek: Voyager (59209). 6.00 American Crime Stories (1993). 7.00 Simpsons (4409). 7.30 The Simpsons (3577). 8.00 Star Trek (30464). 9.00 First Wave (35700). 10.00 South Park (19087). 10.30 Star Trek (28735). 11.00 Friends (7777). 11.30 Star Trek: Voyager (10006). 12.00 The Commish (19255). 1.30 - 7.00 Long Play (723014).

SKY SPORTS 1
7.00 Ford Football Special Wimbledon vs Aston Villa (3281). 8.30 The Show Show (94839). 9.00 Racing News (32821). 9.30 Aerobics - Oz Style (27153). 10.00 Scottish Football Motherwell vs Celtic (19754). 11.00 Football League Review Birmingham City v Bolton (7790). 12.00 Aerobics - Oz Style (49757). 1.30 What a Weekend (88209). 1.00 Ford Football Special Wimbledon vs Aston Villa (77358).

SKY SPORTS 2
7.00 Aerobics (483795). 7.30 Racing News (1148880). 8.00 Golf USA (197251). 8.30 Scooter (787448). 9.00 Golf USA - Nissan Open (113153). 9.00 Football (197822). 9.00 Powerboat and Jet Sport World (1994395). 9.30 V-Max (992548). 10.00 Motor Sport (197822). 10.30 Total Sport World (45787). 11.30 Sports Centre (1424865). 1.30 Close.

SKY SPORTS 3
12.00 World Motorsport (7789822). 3.30 The Show Show (775551). 4.00 Badwater Basketball (5771984). 5.00 Moto-puls (787537). 6.30 Total Sport (197822). 7.00 Fish TV - Tony Dean Outdoors (1978537). 7.30 Fish TV



(7756071). 8.00 International Bowls Australia vs England (1995/00). 10.00 World of Golf (1995/00). 11.00 The Golden Age of Racing (1995/00). 12.00 Motorsport (1749338). 1.30 Close.

EUROSPORT
7.30 Skiing (57574). 8.30 Alpine Skiing (19758). 9.30 Skiing (19758). 10.30 Swimming (197790). 11.30 Skiing (197893). 12.00 Luge (197377). 1.00 Tennis (19754). 2.30 Alpine Skiing (79464). 3.30 Skiing (1025). 4.00 Football (1822). 5.00 Alpine Skiing (197377). 6.45 Y2K Mag - Youth Only Zone (501254). 7.00 Football (1970281). 10.00 Football (1970281). 11.30-12.30 Alpine Skiing (56464).

UK GOLD
7.00 Crossroads (3358342). 7.30 Neighbours (486622). 7.55 EastEnders (778667). 8.30 The Bill (197428). 9.00 The Bill (197428). 9.30 When the Boat Comes In (191349). 10.30 Rhoda (197175). 11.00 Dallas (197419). 11.55 Neighbours (7838042). 12.25 EastEnders (732083). 1.00 Juliet Bravo (497468). 2.00 Dallas (197419). 2.55 The Bill (197428). 3.30 The Bill (197428). 3.55 EastEnders (197428). 4.30 Rhoda (197175). 5.00 All Creatures Great and Small (438716). 6.00 Dynasty (197175). 7.00 2point4 Children (1970398). 7.40 Dads Army (702938). 8.20 The Brittas Empire (1970745). 9.00 Casualty (1974754). 10.05 Hamish Mac-

beth (1972613). 11.30 Open All Hours (192355). 11.50 The Bill (197428). 12.30 The Bill (197428). 12.50 Black-Adder II (194358). 1.30 French and Saunders (1973675). 1.50 Spender (1973675). 3.00 - 4.00 Shopping with Screenplay (1973675).

LIVING
6.00 Tiny and Crew (1973675). 6.20 Johnson and Friends (1973675). 6.30 GreedySaurus and the Gelf (1973675). 6.40 Tiny Tales (1973675). 6.45 Phibet the Frog (1973675). 7.00 Practical Parenting (1973675). 7.20 Practical Parenting (1973675). 7.40 Practical Parenting (1973675). 7.55 Practical Parenting (1973675). 8.00 Barney and Friends (1973675). 8.25 Babaloos (1973675). 8.30 Calliope (1974445). 8.35 Tiny and Crew (1973675). 8.50 Practical Parenting (1973675). 9.00 Practical Parenting (1973675). 9.20 Practical Parenting (1973675). 9.30 Practical Parenting (1973675). 9.40 Practical Parenting (1973675). 9.50 Practical Parenting (1973675). 10.00 Practical Parenting (1973675). 10.10 Practical Parenting (1973675). 10.20 Practical Parenting (1973675). 10.30 Practical Parenting (1973675). 10.40 Practical Parenting (1973675). 10.50 Practical Parenting (1973675). 11.00 Practical Parenting (1973675). 11.10 Practical Parenting (1973675). 11.20 Practical Parenting (1973675). 11.30 Practical Parenting 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